

AN
Alarum against Vsurers.
Containing tryed experien-
ces against worldly
abuses.

WHEREIN GENTLEMEN
may finde good counsells to confirme them
and pleasant Histories to delight them:
and euery thing so interlated with
varietie: as the curious may be sa-
tisfied with rarenesse, and the
curteous with plea-
sure.

DECEASED ARE AN-
nered the delectable historie of Forbo-
nus and Prisceria: with the lamen-
table Complaint of Truth o-
uer England. Written by Tho-
mas Lodge, of Lincolnes
Inne, Gentleman.

O Vita! misero longa, felici breuis.

Imprinted at London by
T. Este, for Sampson Clarke, and are
to be sold at his shop by Guyld Hall.

1584.





**To The Right worshipfull, Sir Phi-
lip Sidney Knight, indued with all**

perfections of learning, and titles of Nobilitie:

Thomas Lodge Gen. wisheth continuance of

*'honour, and the benefit of happie
Studie.*



I is not (noble Gentleman) the titles of Honour that allureth me, nor the nobilitie of your Parents that induceth me, but the admiration of your vertues that perswadeth me, to publish my pore trauailes vnder your vndoubted protection. Whom I most humbly intreate, not onely in so iust a cause to protect me, but also in these Primordia of my studies, after the accustomed prudence of the Philosophers, to confirme with fauourable acceptaunce, and continuance as the equitie of the cause requireth. I haue set downe in these fewe lines in my opinion (Right Worshipfull) the image of a licentious Vsurer, and the collusions of diuellish incrochers, and heerevnto was I led by two reasons: First, that the offender seeing his owne counterfaite in this Mirrour, might amend it, and those who are like by ouerlauish profusenesse, to become meate for their mouths, might be warned by this caueat to shunne the Scorpion ere she deuoureth.

A.ij.

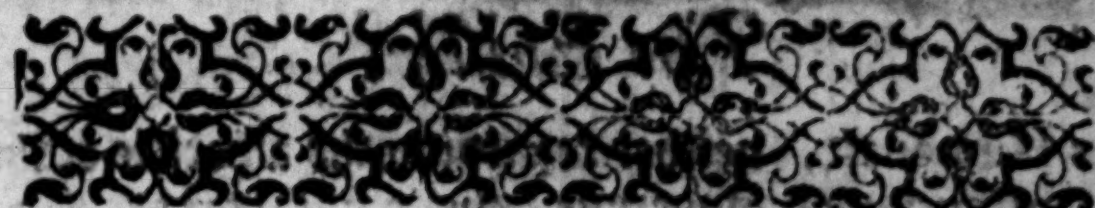
May

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

May it please your Worshippe , to fauour my
trauailes, and to accept my good will : who incouraged
by the successe of this my firstlings will heereafter in
most humble signe of humanitie continue the pur-
pose I haue begunne, commending the cause
and my seruice to your good liking : who
no doubt compassed with incompe-
rable vertues, will commend
when you see occasion, &
not condemne with-
out a cause,

Your VVorships in all
dutie to commaund,
Thomas Lodge.




To The Right worshipfull, my cur-
 teous friends, the Gentlemen of the Innes of Court,
 Thomas Lodge of Lincolnes Inne Gentle-
 man, wisheth prosperous successe in
 their studies, and happie euent in
 their trauailes.



W^{or}teous Gentlemen, let it not seeme
 straunge vnto you, that hee which hath
 long time slept in silence, now begin-
 neth publikely to salute you, since no
 doubt, my reasons that induce me here-
 vnto be such, as both you may allowe
 of them, since they be well meant, and account of them
 since they tend to your profit. I haue published heere of
 set purpose a tried experience of worldly abuses, descri-
 bing heerein not onely those monsters which were ban-
 nished Athens, I meane Usurers, but also such deuour-
 ring caterpillers, who not onely haue satted their fin-
 gers with many rich forfeitures, but also spread their
 venim among some priuate Gentlemen of your profes-
 sion, which considered, I thought good in opening the
 wound: to preuent an vlcer, and by counselling before
 escape, forwarn before the mischief. Led then by these
 perswasions, I doubt not, but as I haue alwayes found
 you favourable, so now you will not cease to be friend-
 ly, both in protecting of this iust cause, from vniust slan-
 der, and my person from that reproch, which, about two
 yeares since, an iniurious cauiller objected against me:
 You that knowe me Gentlemen, can testifie that ney-
 ther my life hath bene so letted, as y^e my companie was
 odious, no; my behauiour so light, as that it shuld passe
 the limits of modestie: this notwithstanding a licenti-

The Epistle.

ous Hipponax, neither regarding the asperitie of the lawes touching slanderous Libellers, nor the offsp:ing from whence I came, which is not contemptible, attempted, not only in publike & reprochfull terms to condemn me in his writings, but also so to slander me, as neither iustice shuld wink at so hainous an offence, nor I pretermitt a commodious reply. About three yeres ago one Stephen Gosson published a booke, intituled, The schoole of Abuse, in which hauing escaped in many & sundry conclusions, I as the occasion the fitted me, shapt him such an answer as becomed his discourse, which by reason of the slendernes of y^e subiect (because it was in defence of plaies & play makers) y^e godly & reuerent y^e had to deale in the cause, misliking it, so, bad y^e publishing, notwithstanding he comming by a priuate vnperfect cōpye, about two yeres since, made a reply, diuiding it into fīue sectiōs, & in his Epistle dedicatory, to y^e right honorable, sir Frances Wallingham, he impugneeth me with these reproches, y^e I am become a vagarāt person, visited by y^e heuy hand of God, lighter then libertie, & looser the vanitie. At such time as I first came to y^e sight herof (iudge you gentlemen how hardly I could digest it) I bethought my selfe to frame an answer, but considering y^e the labour was but lost, I gaue way to my misfortune, contenting my selfe to wait y^e opportunitie wherin I might, not according to the impertinacie of the iniurye, but as equitye might countenance mee, cast a raine ouer the vntained curtailes chaps, & wiping out the suspition of this slander from the remembrance of those y^e knew me, not counsell this iniurious Asinius to become more conformable in his reportes: and now Gentlemen hauing occasion to passe my trauailes in publike, I thought it not amisse somewhat to touch the slander, & prouing it to be most wicked & discommendable, leaue the rest to the discretion of those in authoritie, who if the Gentleman had not plaid bo peep thus long, would haue taught him to haue counted his cards a little better: and now Stephen Gosson

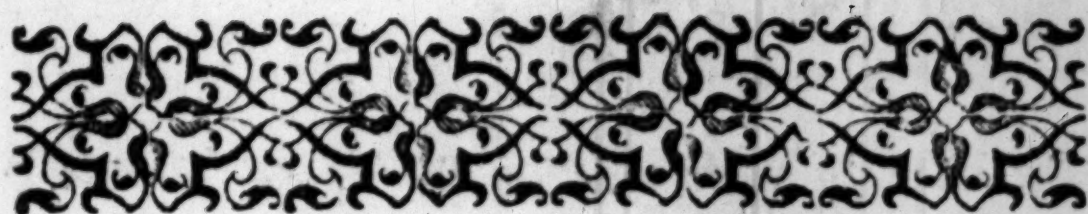
The Epistle.

For let me but familiarly reason with thee thus. Think-
est thou y in handling a good cause it is requisite to in-
duce a fall propositiō, although thou wilt say it is a part
of Rethorike to argue A Persona, yet is it a practise of
small honestie to conclude without occasion: if thy cause
wer good, I doubt not but in so large & ample a discourse
as thou hadst to handle, thou mightest had left the hono-
r of a gentleman inuiolate. But thy base degree, subiect to
seruile attempts, measureth all things according to cas-
uelling capacitie, thinking because nature hath bestow-
ed vpon thee a plausible discourse, thou maist in thy sweet
termes present the sowrest & falsest reports y canst ima-
gine: but it may be, y as it fortuneth to y noble man of I-
taly, it now fareth w me, who as Petarch reported, giue
greatly to y intertainmēt of strangers, & pleasure of the
chase, respected not the braue & gorgeous garments of a
courtier, but delighted in such clothing as seemed y place
where he sojourned, this noble gentleman returning on
a time frō his game, found all his house furnished with
strangers, on whō bestowing his accustomed welcome,
he bent himself to y ouersēeing of his domestical prepa-
ratiō, & cōming to y stable among the hors keepers of his
new come guests, & reprehending one of thē for faulting
in his office, y fellow impatient of reproofe, & measuring
y gentleman by his plaine coat, stroke him on the face, &
turned him out of y stable, but afterward attending on
his master, & perceiuing him whom he had stroken to be
y Lord of y house, he humbly craued pardō: y gentleman
as patient as plesant, not only forgave him y escape, but
pretely answered thus, I blame not thee good fellow for
thy outrage, but this companion, pointing to his coate,
which hath made thee mistake my person. So at this in-
stant esteeme I M. Gosson hath dealt with me, who not
mesuring me by my birth, but by y subiect I hadled like
Will Sumner striking him y stood next him, hath vpe-
braided me in person, whē he had no quarrell, but to my
cause, & therein pleaded his owne indiscretiō, & loded me
with

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with intollerable iniurie. But if with Zoilus he might
kisse the gibet, or with Patacion his headlesse, the world
shoulde bee ridde of an iniurious slaunderer, and that
tongue laboured in suppositions, might be nailed up
as Tullies was for his Philipicall declamations. But
good Stephen, in like sorte will I deale with thee, as
Phillip of Macedon with Nicanor, who not respecting
the maiestie of the king, but giuing himselfe over to the
petulancie of his tongue vainly inueighed against him,
whom notwithstanding Philip so cunningly handeled,
that not onely he ceased the rumour of his report, but al-
so made him as lauish in commending, as once he was
profuse in discommending: his attempt was thus perfo-
med, he seeing Nicanor sorely pressed with ponerty, re-
lieued him to his content. Whereupon altering his cop-
pie, and breaking out into singular commendation of
Philip, the king concluded thus: Loe, curtesie can make
of bad good, and of Nicanor an enimie, Nicanor a friend.
Whose actions my reprouer, I will now fit to thee, who
hauing slaundered me without cause, I will no other-
wise reuenge it, but by this meanes, that now in pub-
like I confesse thou hast a good pen, and if thou keepe thy
Methode in discourse, and leaue thy slandering without
cause, there is no doubt but thou shalt bee commended
for thy coppie, and praised for thy stile. And thus des-
ring thee to measure thy reportes with iustice, and you
good Gentlemen to answer in my behalfe if you
heare me reproched. I leaue you to your
pleasures, and for my selfe I will
 studie your profit.

Your louing friend,
Thomas Lodge.



BARNABE RICH

Gentleman Souldier, in

praise of the Author.

IF that which warnes the young beware of vice,
And schooles the olde to shunne vnlawfull gaine,
If pleasant stile and method may suffice,
I thinke thy trauaile merits thanks for paine,
My simple doome is thus in tearmes as plaine:
That both the subiect and thy stile is good,
Thou needs not feare the scoffes of Momus brood.

If thus it be, good Lodge continue still,
Thou needst not feare Goose sonne or Ganders hisse,
Whose rude reportes past from a slaundrous quill,
Will be determind but in reading this,
Of whom the wiser sort will thinke amis,
To slaunder him whose birth and life is such,
As false report his fame can neuer tuch.

JOHN IONES GEN-

tleman, in praise of the

AUTHOR.

THough not my praise, yet let my wish preuaile,
Who so thou be that list to read this booke,
I neuer yet by flatterie did assaile,
To count that good that most did please my looke.

A.

But

But alwaies wisht my friends such stile to vse,
As wise might like, though foolish would refuse.

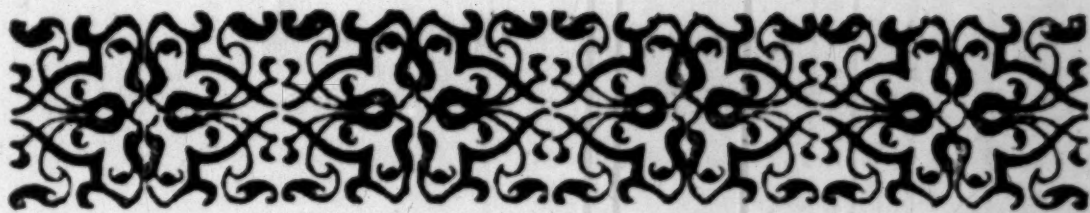
In opening vice my friend who spends his time,
May count by priuate good no profit lost,
What errors scape in young and lustie prime,
Experience (badge of truth) may quickly cost.
Who sets the marke, that makes men shunne the sand,
Deserues good words, his proofes for profit stand,

For common good to crosse a few mens vaines,
Who like to Midas would that all were golde,
I count not misse, since there vnlawfull gaines
Makes some men sink, whom birth might well vphold.
I know the sore, the scarre is seene to plaine,
A blessed state where no such wils doo raine,

In briebe, I praise this booke for pretie stile,
For pithie matter, Gentle be thou iudge,
O would my wish some fancies might beguile,
Then faire reuenewes should not fit a snudge,
A world to see how Asses daunce in golde,
By wanton wils, when Gentles starue for colde,

Whose errors if it please succeeding age,
To see with sighs, and shun with sad aduice,
Let him beholde this booke, within whose page,
Experience leaues her chieftest proofes of price,
And thanke the youth that suffered all these toiles,
To warne thee shun that rocke which many spoiles.

FINIS.



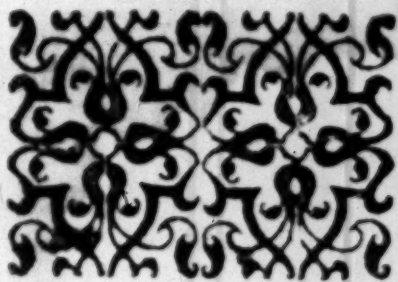
Gentlemen, since the presse cannot passe without escape, and some things are so mistaken, as without correction they will be very grosse. May it please you when you read to correct, especially, such principall errors as these that followe.

Folio.30.b. Line.4. For woed, Read wonne.
Folio.eod. Line.8. For colde, Read cloudes.
Folio.eod. Line.15. For showde, Read shoard.
Folio.eod. Line.30. For concluding. Read concluded.
Fol.31.a. Lin.34. For presents a secrets meete, Read
wth seemly secret greets .

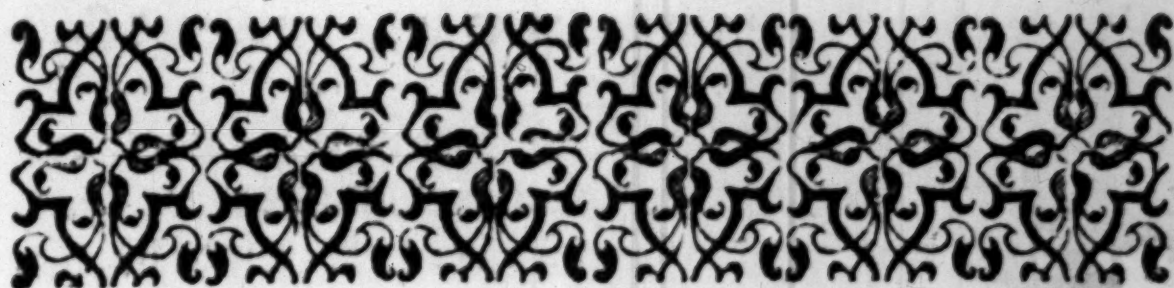
For the rest I referre them to your discretion, who
can distinguish coulours, and either better, or
fit words to your fantasies.

* * *

Your friend:
Thomas Lodge.







AN ALARVM

against Usurers.



Ninaruell though the wise man accounted all things vnder the sun vaine, since the cheefest creatures be mortall: and no wonder though the world runne at randon, since iniquitie in these later dayes hath the vpper hand. The alteration of states if they be lookt into, and the ouerthrow of houses, if they be but easely laid in open viewe, what eye would not shed teares to see things so transitorie? and what wisdom would not indeauour to dissolue the inconuenience?

There is a state within this our Common wealth, which though it necessarily stand as a pillar of defence in this royall Realme, yet such are the abuses that are growen in it, that not onely the name is become odious by somes errour, but also if the thing be not narrowly lookt into, the whole lande by that meanes will grow into great inconuenience: I meane the state of Merchants, who though to publyke commoditie they bring in store of wealth from forrein Nations, yet such are their domesticall practises, that not only they enrich themselves mightely by others misfortunes, but also eat our English Gentry out of house and home. The generall facultie in it selfe, is both auncient and lawdable, the professors honest and vertuous, their actions full of daunger, and therefore worthy gaine, and so necessary,

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ceffarpe this sorte of men be, as no well gouerned state may be without them.

But as among a tree of fruite there bee some withered fallings, and as among wholesome hearbes there growes some bitter Colloquintida: so it cannot be, but among such a number of Marchaunts, there shoulde bee some, that degenerate from the true name and nature of Marchaunts. Of these men I write, and of none other, my inuective is priuate, I will not write generall: and were it not I respected the publyque commoditie more then my priuate prayse, this matter shoulde haue slepte in hugger mugger. Of these vngenerous men I write, who hauing nothing of themselves, yet greedely graspe all things into their owne handes.

These be they that finde out collusions of Statutes, and compasse lande with commoditie, these bee the bouldsterers of vngenerous pettie Brokers: and by these men (the more is the pittie) the prisons are replenished with young Gentlemen: These bee they, that make the Father carefull, the mother sorrowfull, the Sonne desperate: These bee they that make crooked straight, and straight crooked, that can close with a young youth, while they coulen him, and feede his humoures, till they free him of his Farmes. In bryefe, such they be, that glose most fayre then, when they imagine the worst, and vnlesse they bee quickely knowen, they easely will make bare some of the best of our young Heires that are not yet stayed, whome zealously I beseech to ouer-looke this my writing: for what is sette downe here, eyther as an eye witnesse I will auowe, or informed euen by those Gentlemen, who haue swallowed the Gudgeon, and haue bene intangeled in the hooke, I haue approuedly sette downe.

Such

against Vurers.

2

Such bee those sorte of men, that their beginning is of naught, sette by the deuotion of some honest Marchauntes, of whome taking vp their refuse commodities, they imploye it to this vngodly and vnhonest purpose.

They finde out (according to theyr owne bayne) some olde soaking underminig Solicitour, whom they both furnish with money and expence, to sette him forth and gette him more creditte: This good fellowe must haunte Ordinaries, canuasse vp and downe Dowles, and as the Catte watcheth the praye of the House, so dilygentlye intendes hee to the compassing of some young Prouice, whome by Fortune eyther hee findeth in melancholyke passions at the Ordinarie, or at penhillese deuotion in Dowles, or perhappes is brought acquainted with him by some of his owne brotherhode. Him he handeleth in these or such lyke tearmes, both noting place and circumstance.

Gentleman, why bee you so melancholye? Howe falleth it out, that you are not more lyghtsome? Your young yeares mee thinkes shoulde loathe such sollowe aspectes, I maye not anye waye imagine a cause why you shoulde bee pensive: you haue good Parentes, you want no friendes, and more, you haue lyuelyhoodes, which considered, trulye you committe meere follye to bee so meruaylouslye sadde and wonderfullye sorrowfull, where you haue no occasion.

If you want money, you haue creditte, (a gift which who so euer inioyeth nowe a dayes, hee is able to compasse anye thing: and for that I see so good a nature in you, (if proffered seruice stinke not) I will verye willynglye (if so bee you will open
W.y. your

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your estate to me) further you in what I may, and perhaps you shall finde your selfe fortunate, in falling in to my companie.

The young Gentleman, vnacquainted with such like discourses, counting all golde that glysters, and him a faithfull frend that hath a flattering tongue, opens all his minde to this subtile underminer, who so wꝛingeth him at last, that there is no secreete corner in the poore Gentlemans heart, but he knoweth it: after that, framing his behauiour to the nature of the youth, if he be sad, sober: if youthly, riotous: if lasciuious, wanton: he laboureth so much, that at last the birde is caught in the pit-fall, and perceiuing the vaine of the youth, he promiset him some reliefe by his meanes: the Gentleman thinking he hath God almightie by the heele, holdes the Diuell by the toe, and by this meanes, is brought to vtter wracke and ruine. The Broker furnished of his purpose, hauing learned the Gentlemans name, lodging, want, & welth: & finding all things correspondent to his purpose, hies him to his setter vp, who reioyceth greatly at his good happe, and rewards this wicked seducer with a peece of gold. To be bꝛiefe, at first issue on the Gentlemans bonde, this broking knaue receiues fortie or fiftie poundes of course commoditye, making him beleue, that by other meanes monie maye not be had, and swearing to him, that there will be great losse, and that he could wish the Gentleman would rather refuse then take. But the youth not esteeming the losse, so hee supplie his lacke, sets him forward, and giues the willing Jade the spurre, who finding all things meate in the mouth, makes sale of this Marchaundize to some one of his greatest fraternitie, and if it be fortie, the youth hath a good peniworth if in ready money he receiue twentie pound, and yet the money repayable at thre moneths ende. The Broker in this matter, getteth double fee of the Gentleman, treble

treble gaine in the sale of the commoditie, and more, a thousand thanks of this diuellish Usurer. Truly Gentlemen, it is wonderfull to conceiue, (yet are there some of you can tell if I lie) how this Sicophant that helpt our youth to get, now learneth him to spend: What saith he? my young master, what make you with this olde Satten doublet? it is soilde, it is unfit for a Gentlemans wearing, apparell your selfe as you shoulde bee, and ere fewe dayes passe, I will acquaint you with as braue a dame a friend of mine, as euer you knew. Oh how sweete a face hath she, and thus dilating it with rethorickall praises, to make the Gentleman more passionate, it falleth out that the maund Falucon stoops to lure, and all things are fulfilled according to his Brokers direction. Promises are kept on both partes, and my youth is brought acquainted with Mistres Minre: this harlot is an old beaten dogge, and a maintainer of the brothell house brotherhoode, a stale for young nouises, and a limme of Sathan himselfe, whose behauiours and iestures are such, as the world cannot imagine better, if the Gentleman weepe, she wil waile: if he sorrow, she will sigh: if he be merrie, she will not be modest. To conclude, her lesson is so taught her, as she can reckon without booke: Lorde what riotousnesse passeth in apparell, what lauishnesse in banketting, what loosenesse in liuing, and in verie short space, our youth which was fligge, is now at leake, his purse is emptie, and his mistres begins to lowze, which he perceiving, earnestly bent to continue his credit with his Curtisan, comes to his vngratious Broker, whom with faire tearmes he desireth, and with humble suites more earnestly beseecheth to further his credite in what hee may. Who seeing which way the Hare windeth, begins to blame him of his liberalitie, and yet only is the cause of his spending, and after a few priuie nippes, bearing shew of good meaning, but yet indeed his way is to trie

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conclu.

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conclusions, hee hasteth to the principall his good master
Merchant, whom he findeth altogether prompt & ready at
a becke, to send abroad his refuse commoditie for crackt
angels: what conclusiō is betweene the both may easily
be imagined, but y^e end is this, y^e Broker returns to my
solitarie youth, & recountes vnto him, first to make him
fearful, how many places he hath ben at, when he hath
not visited one, how many he hath desired, yet how few
are redie to plesure, at last he breaketh out, & telleth him
y^e whole, assuring him y^e he is to think wel of his master
scrape-penic y^e vsurer, who is willing in hope of his wel
dowing to let him haue once more of his incōmodious cō-
modity, vpon resonable assurāce. To be brieft, y^e bargain
is quickly beaten on, y^e broker laieth y^e losse, y^e gentlemā
extremeth not so his need be serued, y^e Merchaut laughs
at his folly in his sleeue, & to conclude, y^e bonds are deli-
uered, y^e carsed cōmoditie receined, & at this second mart,
how speeds our yoncker think you, perhaps of 50. pounds
in ware, he receiueth 30. pounds in ready money, & yet y^e
money repayable at thre months end. O incredible &
iniurious Dealings, O more then Iudaicall cousonage,
truely Gentlemen this that I write is true, I my selfe
knowe the paymaster, naie more, I my selfe know cer-
tainly, that by name I can reckon among you some, that
haue ben bitten, who left good portiōs by their parents,
& faire landes by their auncesors, are desolate now, not
hauing friends to releue them, o; money to affray their
charges. A miserable and wretched state is this, full of
inconuenience, when such eie sores are not sene in a cō-
mon weale, when such abuses are winked at, when such
desolation is not perceiued, & wonderfull it is, y^e among
so many godly lawes, made for y^e administration of iu-
stice, ther be none found out: for these couetous malefac-
tors, purchase armes now, possesse y^e place of ancient pro-
genitors, & men made rich by youg youths misspēdings,
doe feast in y^e halls of our riotous young spend thrifts.

It will be answered, it is the gentlemen's owne folly, & I graunt it, yet of their folly who should beare the blame, truely the bier, who hauing experience to counsell, might haue also conscience to forbear the: nay among the rabble, met of such as we find to haue falne in their youth, how many experienced men find we at yeares of discretion: who hauing only the name of gentrie left the to promote them to honoꝝ, & finding no relæse any way, are inforced either in forren countries to end their liues miserably or desperatly, some more vngratious, are a pray for the gallous, choosing rather to die with infamie, then to liue to beg in miserie. But to leaue this to his place, & to returne from whence we haue digressed: Our gentleman hauing got new supplie, is picked on to new sinne, & the minister of the diuel seruing at his elbow, perswades him to new change, for varietie saith he, is meruelously to be admitted of, especially in such causes, & withall brings him to a new gamester, a wittie worldling, who more cunningly can handle him the first, & hath more shifts of descant for his plain song, (but this by the way is to be noted, the broker hath his part of the gaires with the curtisan, & she cosins for them both,) this miniō so traineth our seduced youth in folly, as not only himselfe is at her command, but also his substance remaineth to her vse, this high prized comoditie is imploied to the curtisans brauery, & she which makes him brutish in behauior, doth empty his replenished purse: thus the eye of reason is closed by sensualitie, & the gifts of nature are diminished, by the disordinate vlsage of bestly venery. Suppliees are sought for euery way, by his wicked broker, to bring him to ruine, & to work his vtter confusio. Thus, thus, alas, the father before his eyes, & in his elder yeres, beholdeth as in a mirroꝝ, the desolation of his owne house, and hearing of the profusenesse of his vngratious sonne, calleth him home, rebuketh him of his error, and requesteth account of his money misspended: Hee (taught and instructed
suffici

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sufficiently to colour his follie by his vngodly mistress, and cursed misleader) at his returne to his father, maketh shewe of all honestie, so that the olde man lead by naturall affection, is almost perswaded that y^e truth is vnt ruth: yet remembring the priuie conueiaunce of his youthly yeares, & deeming the incident to his young sonne, he discourseth with him thus.

O my sonne, if thou knewest thy Fathers care, and wouldest auns were it with thy well doing, I might haue hope of the continuance of my progeny, & thou be a ioy to my aged yeres. But I feare me the eyes of thy reason are blinded, so y^e neither thy fathers teares maye perswade thee, nor thine owne follies laide open before thine eyes, reduce thee, but that my name shall cease in thee, and other couetous underminers shall inioye the frutes of my long labours. How tenderly good boye in thy mothers lyfe wast thou cherished? How deere ly be-
loued? How well instructed? Did I ever entice thee to vice? Nay rather enforced I thee not to loue vertue? And whence cometh it that all these good instructions are swallowed vp by one sea of thy follie? In the Uniuersities thy wit was praised, for that it was pregnant, thy preferment great, for that thou deseruedst it, so that before God I did imagine, that my honour shuld haue beginning in thee alone, and be continued by thy offspring, but being by mee brought to the Innes of Court, a place of abode for our English Gentry, and the onely nurserie of true lerning, I finde thy nature quite altered, and where thou first shuldest haue learnt law, thou art become lawlesse: Thy modest attire is become immodest brauerie, thy shamefast seemelynes, to shamelesse unpudencie: thy desire of lerning, to loitering loue: and from a souldier of the Muses, thou art become a master in the vniuersitie of loue, & where thou knowest not anie waie to get, yet fearest thou not outrageously to spend. Report, nay true report, hath made
me

not priuie to many of thy escapes, which as a Father though I couer, yet as a good father, tenderly I will rebuke. Thy portion by yeare from me, is standing fortie pounds, which of it selfe is sufficient both to maintaine you honestly and cleanly: besides this, you are growne in Arrearages within this two yeares no lesse then 100. pound, which if thou wilt looke into, is sufficient for three whole yeres to maintaine an honest familie. Now how hast thou spent this, forsooth in apparell, and that is the aptest excuse: and lauishnesse in that, is as discommendable as in anie other, if in apparell thou passe thy boundes, what make men of thee? A prodigall proude foole, and as many fashions as they see in thee, so manie frumpes will they afford thee, counting thee to carrie more bombast about thy belly, then wit in thy head. Haue my sonne, muse not vpon the worlde, for that will but flatter thee, but weigh the iudgement of God, and let that terrefie thee, and let not that which is the cause of pride, nussell thee vp as an instrument of Gods wrathfull indignation. What account reapes a young man by braue attire? Of the wise he is counted riotous, of the flatterer, a man easily to be seduced, and where one will afford thee praise, a thousand will call thee proud, the grettest reward of thy brauerie is this, see yonder goes a gallant Gentleman: and count you this praise worth ten score pounds? Truly sonne, it is better to be accounted wittie, then wealthy, and righteous, then rich, praise lasteth for a moment that is grounded on shewes, and fame remaineth after death, that proceedeth of good substance: chuse whether thou wilt bee infamous with Erostratus, or renowned with Aristides, by one thou shalt beare the name of a Sacriledge, by the other, the title of Iust, the first maye flatter thee with similitude, the last will honour thee indeede, and more, when thou art dead. Sonne, sonne, giue care to thy Fathers instructions, and grounde them in thy heart,

An Alarum

heart, so shalt thou bee blessed among the elders, and be an eye soze vnto thy enemies. A second grieffe, nay more, a corasue to my heart (young man) is this, you are both prodigall in apparell, and in life, and vngratulations and vngodly curtisans, (as I vnderstand) are become the mistresses of your mastership: & thinkest thou this report could come to thy Fathers eare, and not griene him? Sonne, I had rather thou shouldest bee accounted foolish then amorous, for the one may be bozne withall, the other is most odious. Incontinencie (young man) is y root of all inconuenience, it dulleth the memorie, decayeth the bodie, and perissheth the bones, it makethstedfast fickle, beautifull deformed, and vertuous vicious: it impayreth mans credit, it detracteth from his honour, and shortneth his daies, a harlots house is the gate of hell, into the which whosoever entereth, his vertues doe become vices, his agilitie is growne to slouthfulnesse, and from the child of grace, he is made the bondslauie of perdition. The wisest by lewde loue are made foolish, the mightiest by lust are become effeminate, the stoutest Monarkes to miserable mecookes. I wot well (my child) that chaste loue is necessarie, but I know (my sonne) that lecherie is horrible. A harlots wanton eie is the lure of the diuell, her faire speeches, the snares of sin, & the more thou delightest in her companie, y more hepest thou the wrath of God against thy selfe: Let Lais looke neuer so demaurely, yet Lais is Lais, measure not thy liking by looks, for there be some holy diuells: to bee brieffe, the end is this, he is best at ease that least meddeleth with anie of them. Demosthenes will not buie repentaunce so deere, as with high summes to purchase transitorie pleasures. and I had rather thou shouldest learne of a Philosopher, then bee instructed by thy owne fancie, marke this axiome, there is no vertue which is odious after it is attained to, but the pleasures of loue are then most loathsome, when they are determined: and therefore
soze

foze no vertues: and to conclude, not to be sought after. It is idlenesse my sonne, that seduceth thee: for the minde that is well occupied, neuer sinneth. When thou enterprisest anie thinges, measure thine owne fortune by other mens successe: as thou considerest of thy ends, so imagine of thine owne. Thinke with thy selfe the wisest haue fallen by loue, as Salomon, the richest, as Anthonie, the proudest, as Cleopatra, the strongest, as Sampson, and by how many degrees they did excede thee, by so many circumstaunces pzeuent thy ruine. It is inough for sillie Birdes to be lead by the call of the Fowler, and for men it is most conuenient to flye apparaunt goods, & sticke to that which is indeede. Though thine eie perswade thee the woman is beautifull, yet let thy experience teach thee, shee is a Curtisan, and wilt thou esteeme of painted Sepulchres, when thou knowest certaine and determined substaunces? Doe we buie ought for the fairenesse or goodnesse? Spangled Hobbie horses are for children, but men must respecte things which be of value indeede. I imploie my money vppon thee, not to the vse thou shouldest be lewde, but for that I woulde haue thee learned. It greueth mee to heare reportes of thy companie keeping, for where thou offendest in the two forimest, thou art altogether nussed in this, and truelye I can not but meruayle at thee, that being borne reasonable, to make election, thou art so vntoward in picking out thy choice: Agree light and darkenesse? Do the Icknewiton with the Aspis? Doeth the Welsell loue the Cockatrice? Do gentle borne, such as bee vngratulations? No my Sonne, broking bugges are not companions for continent Courtiers: for who so eyther accompanyeth them, is eyther accounted a spende thriste, or one that is Sir John Lacke lande, eyther of their fraternitie, or else a verie fole.

C.ij.

Finde.

An Alarum

Finde me out anie one of them, that in thy aduersitie will helpe thee, or in thy misdemeanoꝝ aduise thee. Nay. Such they are, as will rather binde thee prentice with Sathan, then exhort thee to eschew sinne. They bee the Caterpillers of a Common weale, the sting of the Adversary, nay, the priuie foes of all Gentry, and such they be, that if they get, they care not how vngodly, and if they couen, they care not how commonly: So that three vices haue nowe taken hold of thee, first prodigalitie, the enimie to continencie, next lasciuiousnesse, the enimie of sobrietie, and thirdly ill company, the decayers of thy honestie. The meanes to auoyde these euills are manifest, but they must be followed: it is not sufficient to knowe a fault, but it is wisdom to amend it: Humble thy heart (my sonne) to the highest, and the more thou considerest of him, the lesse wilt thou care for this flesh: For what is the body better by the gay rayment? truly no more then y^e soule is by superfluous zeale, for as the one is foolish, so is the other franticke. Leave lust, least it lose thee, vse chaste delights for they will comfort thee; it is better dꝛiuing a toyne out of memorie by reading a good lesson, then by idlenesse to commit an errour, which is salued with repentaunce. Of needlesse euills make no accompt, y^e lesse you accompany y^e worst, the more wil you be sought to by the best. Easie is it to say well, but the vertue is to doo well: O my deere childe, as thy friend I exhort thee, and as thy louing father I command thee, to consider of the tender care I haue of thee, and to imploy all thy indeuours now to my comfort: if thou hast runne awry, call thy selfe home, and waye within thy heart the reward both of vertue, and the discredite by vice, so the honour of the one will incite thee, the infamy of the other will deterre thee. For those debts that haue ouerpast thee, in hope of amendement I will see them satisfied, and if heereafter thou fall into the lyke lurch, I promise thee this, that as now I deale with thee as a father

against Vsurers,

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ther, so then will I account of thee as a reprobate. Thou seest fire and water before thee, chuse to thy liking: in doing well, I will reioyce in thee, in dealing otherwise, I will nothing account of thee.

The father with teares hauing ended this his exhortarie, is answered in humble sort of his dissembling sonne, thus.

Whatsoever (good father) hath passed, is irreuocable, but what is to come may be considered of: it is naturall in me to fall, and vertuous to recover my selfe. I confesse good sir, I am guiltie of errour, and haue faulted highlye, yet not so greatlye as you intimate: the world now a dayes is rather bent to aggrauate then to couer escapes. Wherefore, as the first step to amendment is repentance, so (deare father) I am sorrie for that is past, and most earnestly request you to continue your fauour, and no doubt but your sonne shall behaue himselfe heerafter to your comfort.

The father delighted with his sonnes discrete and humble answer, conceiuethe hope of amendment, and returneth him to the Inns of the Court againe, and setting him on free foote, exhorteth him to follow vertue, and intentiuely to long after learning. But he, whose heart was pliable to receiue all impressions, no sooner is out of the view of his fathers house, but began to forget his olde promises, and renews the remembrance of his mistresse, deuising by the way how to delight her, and what sutes to prouide that may satisfie her. To bee brieve, being returned to London, and quit of his fathers seruants, (ye newes of his arriuall being blazed abroad) his Broker in post hast comes and salutes him, his mistresse by tokens and sweete letters greetes him, hee maketh his marchant ioyfull in the receipt of the money, and mistresse Mince merrie for the returne of her young copesmate.

To be brieve, in post hast he posteth to her chamber,

C.iiij.

where

An Alarum

Where Lord what friendly greetings passe, what amorous regards, how she blameth him of his delaye, and with fained teares watereth his youthly face, howe shee sweares that she is constant, and yet a curtisan: howe she vowes she is continent, and yet common: truly it were a matter to make a Comedie on, to see both their actions, and to note their discourses: there needes not many or long sermons on this, master Brokers help in short space is sought for: for the money my youths father gaue him, hath bought his mistresse a sute of the new fashion. The Broker readie at a becke, without delay furnisheth him with money: it is lamentable to report euery losse, and sith in another place I meane to set them downe, I will not motion them heere. In short space, our Marchant beginneth to looke after moze assurance, and where to fore he was content with obligation, he now hunteth after statutes. (This kind of bond Gentlemen is well known among you, the vsurers by this time haue built manno: houses vpon some of your lyuelihoods: and you haue lost that for little, which will not be recouered with much.) The force whercof our youth considering not, so he haue foyson of money: the world to be short, at the last falleth out thus, both land, mony, & all possibilities, either by father or friends, are incroched vpon, by this gentle master Scrape-peny, so that now our youth finding neither suretie nor similitude, by his flattering vsurer is laid vp close for escaping. Let him write to his huswife Mistresse Minre, she disdaineth him: let him intreate the Broker he refuseth him, let him make sute to the vsurer, he saith hee shall not coulen him: thus (this Gentleman that neyther by his fathers counsell woulde refuse, nor by his owne experience be perswaded, to auoyde the eminent daunger that hanged ouer his head, is brought to confusion, and those friends that salued on him before in prosperitie, now frowne at him in his aduersitie: those that

that depended with flattering words in time of wealth on his finding, now altogether disdain him that cannot finde himselfe. Doe Gentlemen what it is to winke at good counsell, and to preferre young attempts before old experience: see here the fruites of contempt, and lette these lessons serue you to looke into: had this Gentleman regarded aduice, had he considered of his estate, himselfe had bene at libertie, his friends in quiet. But (alas the while) our heires now a dayes haue running heads, which makes their parents abounde in teares: some are led with nouelties in foireine Nations, some with prodigalitie in their owne Countrey: some with pride, the first fruites of all impietie: some by loue, the ladie of losenesse. If one hunteth after vertue, how many hundreds doe dayly practise vice? Let the experience of this young Nouice (my youthly countrey men) make you warie, and see but into this one parcell of his lyfe, and giue your iudgement of his misfortune: his wit was sufficient to conceiue vertue, yet knowing (with Medea) the best, he headlong ranne to the worst. Natures giftes are to be vsed by direction: he had learning, but hee applied it ill: he hadde knowledge, but hee blinded it with selfe opinion. All graces whatsoeuer, all ornaments what so they be, either giuen vs by our fore-parent, or grafted in vs by experience, are in themselves as nothing: vnlesse they be ordered by the power of the most highest. What care conceiue you, may be comperable to this young Gentlemans fathers sorrow? who seeth his house pluckte ouer his head: his sonne imprisoned to his great discredite, and the vsurer the onely gainer, and yet the most vilest person.

Nowe, what becommeth of our youth thinke you? his Father refuseth him, dispossessing the ryghte heyre of what hee maye, and poore hee is left desolate and afflicted in prison. And in these dayes how many are infected with this desperate disease, Gentlemen
iudge

An Alarum

iudge you, I my selfe with teares haue heard some priuie complaints, and lamented my friends misfortunes, salne so sodainly. My good friends y^e are heerafter to enter into this world, looke on this glasse: it wil shew you no counterfait, but the true image of a rebellious sonne, and the rewarde of contempt of parents; account your selues happie to learne by others experience, and not to be partakers of the actuall sorowe: Obey your parents, for they loue you, trust not to straungers, for they will vpb^o aide you of their benefite; it is better to haue the stripes of a friend, then the kisses of a flatterer. Plato would haue young men to looke in the glasse, for two causes, the one, that if they founde themselves beautyfull in visage, and of exquisite stature, they might indeuor to make the vertues of their minde, as werable to the liniaments of the bodie: the other, that if they found themselves of deformed shape, they should seeke to beautifie the same by the inward perfections of the minde; & for two causes my good friends, woulde I wish you to consider of this mans fall, and read his misfortune: the one, that not being yet nipped, you may preuent: the other, that being but yet a little galled, you would holde backe.

Est virtus placidis abstinuisse bonis.

As the Loadstone draweth yron, so let good counsaile conquere your affections, as the Theamides of Aegypt draweth awaie yron, so let the feare of God dispell all worldly pleasures: If a simple man fall to decay, it may be borne withall, if a man of wisdome grow in arrerages, may we not blame his follie? It is better to bee enuied then pittied, for thou art pittied alwaies in misfortune, but enuied at time of thy prosperitie. To bee brieve (Gentlemen) ouerlooke this aduisedly, & you shall finde many things worthy the noting, and no few matters w^ritten for your comoditie. This miserable young man, ouerwhelmed thus on euerie side with manifold
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and sundry cares, beholding his most vnfortunate state, in wofull termes in the prison house breketh into these complaints.

Alas unhappie wretch that I am, that hauing a good father that did cherish me, a tried mother that tenderly nourished me, many friends to accompanie me, faire reuenewes to enrich me: haue heaped sorowes on my owne head by my ffathers displeasure, refused of my friends for my mis demeanour, & dispossessed of my land by my prodigalitie. O incestuous lust that enterest the hart, & consumest the bones, why followed I thee? & O vngodly pleasure why didst thou flatter me? O wicked and vngracious man that hast vndone me, and woe be vnto thee (vile wretch) that in my miserie doest thus leaue me. What shall become of me poore wretch: faine now would I begge that bread, which vaine I haue spent: now too late doe I see, that fainednesse is no faith, and he that trusts to this world, cleaues to a broken staffe. Alas, how should I attaine to libertie: or by what meanes may I escape my confusion? My ffather hath accepted of another sonne, and all by reason of my lewdnesse: O that I had respected his vnfained tearce, O that I had accepted his good aduice, O that I had rejected my flattering friends. But I see no hope is left me, my creditour is too cruell, yet hath he couloned me: and faine would I be his bond slaue, woulde he release me: but since no hope is left me of recouerie of my estate, I referre my cause to God, who as he will remit my offence, so will he redresse my miserie and grieve.

Whilest in these or such like tearmes, the poore young man bewayles his beaute happe, sodainly enters his couloning creditour, and in outwarde shew bewailling his misfortune, yet in very truth the onely original cause of his destruction, comforteth him in these or such like termes.

Gentleman, the exigent and extremitie that you are
D. now

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now at, though it be most tedious vnto you, it is most lamentable in my opinion. These young yeeres to taste of sorrowe so soone, is straunge, considering all circumstances : but since the cause procéedes of your owne lewd misspending, mine be the losse in part, but the greater must your affliction be. I hoping of your well doing, neither denied your pleasure nor profite, yet in lieu and recompence of all, I finde iust nothing : a few subscribed papers I haue, and some money I haue receyued, but nothing to my principall, and yet notwithstanding so fauourable wil I be vnto you, as if you procure me any one suretie I will release you. To leese my money I were loath, and to keepe you heere it were more loathsome. I wold doe all for the best, not hindering my selfe, so you would straine your selfe to satisfie me somewhat.

The Gentleman knowing in himselfe his vnability, beginneth in truth to open his state, protesting, that neither of himselfe, nor by any one at the present he is to doe any thing, no not so much as if he released him to pay his charges, such is his miserie, in that all his friends had giuen him ouer, wherevpon most humbly he beseecheth him, to way his cause, promising any seruice what so euer may be: if so be it wil please him to set him free. Mas vsurer smelling out the disposition of the youth, beginnes to bring him to his bowe after this sort.

The world at these dayes is such (my friende) as there is small respect had of those which haue nought, and great honour attributed vnto them, that will most nearly looke to themselues: which I perceiuing, haue giuen my selfe (as naturally men are inclined to seeke after glory) to the hoarding vp of riches, to the end that my posteritie might be raised vp, and my fathers name (which as yet is of no account) might by my meanes become worshipfull. To perfourmaunce of this, trulye

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I haue neither ben idle no: euill occupied: my thoughts haue wholly bene set of gettings, and who so now a dayes hath not the like meaning, his purpose will grow to small effect. And though of my selfe, I doe what I may, yet (as it is necessary) I must haue ministers, wher by that which I looke for may be brought to my hands: other wise, my stocke might lye without vantage to my vtter vndwining. Whereupon, if thou wilt followe my direction and be ruled by my counsell, I will release thee of prison, and set thee at libertie: restore thee to thy wonted credite, and countenance thee with my coyne, so that in shorte space thou maist haue money in thy purse, and other necessities to set thee vp againe. Thou seest that now thou art miserable, but I will make thee fortunate: thou now art almost foodlesse, by me thou shalt be satisfied with the best: thy friends now disdain thee, the day shall come that they shall seeke to thee: now art thou without apparell, through me thou shalt bee costlye attired: naye, what pleasure soeuer thou shalt either imagine for thy preferment, or wish for to doe thee good, thou shalt both finde me ready to performe it, and friendly to continue it.

The Gentleman surprised with this sodaine ioye, and vnacquainted good speeches (not dreading that the Serpent laye hidden in the grasse) most willingly assented, promising to the aduenture of his lyfe, (so his creditour woulde be his wordes master,) to doe his indeauour to performe his will, as hee ought to doe. The Usurer seeing the minde of his prisoner, precisely bent to doe his commaunde, openeth his heart vnto him thus.

Gentleman, for that I haue an opinion of your honestye, and truste in your secrecy: I will open vnto you my minde, and according as I finde your aunswere, I will shape your deliuerance. Such time

D.y.

as

An Alarum

as you were at libertie, you know you had acquaint-
taunce with manye Gentlemen, and they not of the
meanest: who at sometimes as well as your selfe were
destitute of siluer: such as those be you must finde out
for me, I will deliuer you presently: apparayle you
in print, giue you money in your purse, and at suche
an Ordinarie shall you lye, where the greatest resorte
is: your behauiour and vsage towarde all men must
be verie honest, especiallly in all causes looke into the
natures of men. If you spie out any one Gentleman
pensive, enter into discourse with him, if you maye
perceiue, that either by parentage or possession, hee is
worthy credite, laye holde on him, feede him with mo-
ney if he want, and (as though it proceeded of your own
good nature) profer him to be bound for him: if he ac-
cept your offer, come to me, I will furnish him: nowe
you may deuide the commoditie or the money between
you, and out of your part (considering me after the big-
nesse of the summe) take the rest for your owne fee:
which if you looke into, in a yeare will growe vnto no
small summe. This is the Load-stone must lead you:
and by all meanes you must fashion your selfe to feede
humours: this is an honest meanes to lyue by, this is
a way to libertie, by this you may pleasure your selfe:
and to conclude in doing this, you maye mightelye in
short space enrich me. When you haue found out one fit
to your vaine, remember this lesson, that what so euer
vauntage you get of him, either for me, or for your self,
care not how little paper and inke he can shewe of
yours, keepe still your owne stake clere. In these mat-
ters you must be verie circumspect, for there be now a
daies such underminers start vp, that scarce a man can
imagine his owne profit but they preach it a broad, and
laye it open. Thus doe you see whereto you must
trust: howe saye you now, will you be content to doe
this.

The

against vsurers.

The young man auns wereth, Good sir, there is nothing that you haue sayde that by mee shall anie wayes be forgotten, I am readie and willing to put in practise what you haue taught, and no doubt you shall finde me so diligent, y^e your selfe shal say, you were happie in putting me in trust. In bziefe the conclusion is this, the vsurer glad of this new Gentleman broker, dischargeth him, sets him a floate: now who so braue as our late prisoner, or who so frolicke? The olde sorowes are forgotten, and new inuentions to coulin. possesse the receptacle of his reason. His olde acquaintaunce flocke about him, some reioycing at his recovered libertie, some wondering at his sodaine brauerie, yet fewe suspecting his pretended and hidden knauerie. Of them some he salueth humblye, some ordinarilye, he was not so well instructed, but it is as well performed. Now who but our Gentleman is a companion for the best, and a couliner of the most, he staies not long before he be prouided of a prae, whom he so ordereth, as himselfe is pertaker of y^e halfe, though the other be paymaster of the whole, and as those that are in the heate and extremitie of an ague, desire drinke to satisfie their drought: so this young gentleman that is brought into bondes by one coulining spend thrift, hauing once entered foote in the high waie of prodigalitie, continueth headlong his course to his owne confusion. But by the way it is to be noted, that this Gentleman which is brought into the laps by our late prisoner, hath his possession & portion allotted him, so that our vsurer & his mate worke vpon sure groundes. Two or thre Obligations and commodities receiued, our vsurer grows to new deuises, and sets his schollers to practise them, saith he, I must now haue you learne, to bring in this your friend to paie your debtes, and by this meanes you shall bring it about, you shall when next time he shall demandaund your helpe, tell him that of me there will be had no money before your olde bondes

D.ii. be

An Alarum

be canceled, so that vnlesse he deale with me, by some meanes to acquit that, it is vnpossible to attaine vnto anie farther supplie. You may alleadge vnto him holwe in such like extremities you haue stucke, and will sticke vnto him, and desire him in so easie a request he wil not leaue you destitute, by this meanes shall you be rid of your olde debts, and be as free from inconuenience as euer you wer. No sooner hath our seducer learnt this lesson, but forth he trudgeth to find out this young master, if possible may be, if so be he as yet be stozed, he doth either make him spend it or lend it, & vpon his new request of supply, openeth vnto him all the circumstance which befoze he had learned, & so cunningly handleth him, that the Gentleman desirous of money is easilye content. Wherevpon the matter is handeled thus betwixt the Merchant and this Gentleman broker to preuent inconuenience, if the brokers bond be an hundred pounds, the Merchant will lend fiftie more, and maketh y^e young man to seale an absolute bond as his owne debt, so that the desperate debte of the decayed cousoned, by his meanes is brought to be the true debt of this silly Gentleman. Paie when they haue fatted both their fingers, they leaue not thus, but from money shoote at land, for if the Gentleman haue 500. pound in stocke payable at 24, or 25. yeares, they will so worke as all that shall be their proper goods which they will recouer out of the exrecutors hands, either by attachment or otherwise, and besides that, so cunningly will they deale, that although they haue sufficient assuraunce in hand alreadie, yet wil they not leaue till they get an other more sure string to their bowe, therby to compasse the poore Gentlemans lands, at his want they will deale thus. This Gentleman and the broker must bee inuited by the Merchant, when amongst other table talke, M. Scrape-penie seales my youth if his monie be gone, & offering speches of wil lingnes to prouide him alwaies at his need, sets on by a becke

beck his cousoning mate, to procure y^e gentlemā to craue
more mony, which he doth, y^e merchant cunningly coule-
ring his craft, and wereth him thus. Gentlemā you see I
am far out already, & vpon your single bond I haue dis-
burst a round sum of money, no lesse then 500. poundes,
which in a poore mans purse as I am, is no small quan-
titie, neuertheles if you wil affoord me farther assurāce,
I wil not stick in redie mony once more to lend you 30.
pounds. The gentleman neuer tofore vled to receiue re-
dy mony at y^e first hāds, begins to yeeld him hartly thāks
& humbly to pray him to demand & he will performe, so
saith he, considering your honest dealing, I cannot think
you may imagine any resonable assurance which I wil
not seale to. Why the quoth y^e merchant, y^e matter stan-
deth thus, if so be you will seale me an estatute for my
mony, no sower shal you haue done it, but you shal haue
y^e mony, all your bonds in, & a decesance, to this y^e I offer
is reasonable, & to morrow if you will I will doe it. A-
greed quoth y^e Gentleman, & so takes his leaue, the next
morrowe according to promise, the Gentleman sealeth
the assurance, acknowledging an estatute, before some
one Iustice of the bench, and comming to his Merchants
house for his money, is delaied for that daie of, & in fine,
his absolute and were is this, that without a suretie he
promised him none: he takes witnesse of his friend (as
he tearmeth him) a pretie pæce of witnesse, when he seeth
no remedie, he demaundeth his bondes, & he withholdeth
thē, he craues his decesance, & cannot haue it. Thus is
y^e poore Gentlemā brought into a notable mischief, first
in being cousoned of his mony; next deluded by his esta-
tute wout decesance (for if y^e decesance be not deliuered
y^e same time or daie, y^e statute is yet nothing available)
thirdly by his bonds detaining, which may be recovered
against him, & continue in full force; and the usurer that
playes all this rie, will yet be counted an honest and
well dealing man. But flatter them who so list for me,

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I rather wish their soules health, then their good countenances, though I knowe they will stoorme at me for opening their secrets, yet truth shall countenaunce me, since I seeke my countries comoditie. Here you see two houses destroyed manifestly, y^e one of them, from a Gentleman made a craftie cousoner; the other of them from a landed man, a silly poore wretch. And wonderfull it is to see, considering the asperitie of the Penall statutes set downe by her Maiestie, and her honourables Peeres in the Parliament. How pretie collusions these cunning merchants can find to infringe them. One private practise they haue in deliuerie of y^e comoditie, to make the condition of the Obligation thus. The condition, &c. is this, that if the within bound, T. C. his heires, exrecuto^rs or assignes, doe well and truely pay or cause to be payde to y^e aboue named M. S. the sum of 40. pounds of lawfull mony of England, at his own dwelling house, scituated & being in Colman street, which he y^e sayd T. C. standeth indebted vnto him for, if so be that he the sayd M. S. or S. his wife be in life, y^e then. Otherwise, &c. Now in this condition, y^e casual mart bringeth it out of compasse of statute, thus by collusions M. Scrape-penie gathers vp his money. Others worke by statute and recognisance, making their debter to discharge in their booke of account the receipt of so much money, where indeede they had nothing but dead comoditie. Other worke by liues, as if such a one liue thus long, you shall giue mee during his or her life 10. pounds a yeare, for 30. pounds, and be bound to the perfo^rmaunce of that by statute. Other some deale in this sorte, they will picke out among the refuse comoditie some pretie quantitie of ware, which they will deliuer out with some money, this sum may be 40. pound, of which he will haue you receiue 10. pound readie money, and 30. pounds in comoditie, and all this for a yeare: your bonde must be recognisance, now what thinke you by all computation your
commodities

commoditie will arise vnto, truely I my selfe know
him that receiued the like, and may boldly auouch this,
that of that thirtie pounds commoditie, there coulde be
no broker be more made then foure nobles: the commo-
ditie was Late stringes, and was not this thinke you
more then abhominable vsurie: For common losses, &
y reasonablest is, for 36. pound for three months, accoun-
ted a good penie worth, if there be made in redie mony,
20. pounds, naye passing good if they make 25. poundes,
I haue knowen of fortie, but sirtene pound, and tenne
shillings. These be general payments, and receipts, inci-
dent to the most part of the young Gentlemen that I
knowe deale that wayes: and truely I my selfe knowe
within my time, no few number of Gentlemen, which
are vtterly vndone by this meanes, and vnlesse this c-
will be preuented, and Gentlemen take not more heede,
more will followe after. But if the punishment of these
men were In discretione Iudicis, notwithstanding the
lawe were couloured with all by them, yet the consci-
ence of the iudge woulde cut such ill members off. In
former ages these things being knowen, were lookt vnto,
and now when most punishment is menaced, vsurie
is most practised. Well may we now see that the craftie
haue as many cautes, as the discret cautions. If
we had as seuerer lawes in England, as once in Athens
Solon set downe, we shoulde then cast a rayne ouer
the head strong vnrulynesse of these Caterpillers: there
it was not lawfull, the Father being liuing, that a-
ny money shoulde be lent vnto the sonne: who be-
ing vnder his Fathers gouernement, was not to be
ordered according to his owne lyking: and there who-
soeuer did transgresse this lawe, it was ordayned that
hee might haue no recouerye, nor be releued anye
waye by iustice, for that it was doubted, that the sonne
hauing no wayes to aunswere that hee did owe, should
eyther be infozced by practising coniurations in the Ci-
tie,

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He, or exercising priuie thefte in his Fathers house, to ridde and discharge himselfe of the burthen of his debte.

The Aegyptians and Athenians seeing the error of couetous vsurie to take footing in their prouinces, by approued iudgement concluded, that by no instrument, plea, execution, or other meanes in lawe, a bodie might bee detained: the originall being for corrupt gaines.

The Romanes, who not onelye inuented, but imitated those Lawes which confounded error, by decre of Senate, with the Athenians, in the verie same termes as they didde sette downe, that no money should bee lent to young heyres vppon interest, neyther allowing the detinue pleadable, nor the vsurie aunswearable, hauing a priuate eye into the vnrimeasurable and greedie intents of those couetous carles, who compasse the Fathers landes before the Sonne come to it.

In the Lawe of the twelue Tables, orders in this cause were prescribed, and directions set downe by the Tribunes: among whome, a man of rare vertue, Lucius Comatius instituted and made a law, where in he enacted, that no vsurie, nor vsurers shoulde bee allowed.

Lucius Lucullus seeing this error alreadye creapt thorough all Asia, and (lyke a wise gouernour) wyl- ling to preuent, not onelye made a Law to auoyde all occasion of vnlawfull gaines, but also appoynted punishmentes to those that were subiect to the error.

Tiberius Cæsar as curious as the rest for com- mon good, didde with as greate circumspection as might bee, take awaye the cause, and displace the ef- fecte of this mischiefe: not suffering that to take
heade

heade in his gouernement, that was the capytall enimie of a well ordered State: Claudius Cæsar not yelding to his Auncestours in honourable actions, renewed these Lawes: Vespasian continued them: and Marcus Antonius Pius, with Alexander Seuerus established them with publike instrumentes: who to the fore-passed erreures by farther insight ioyned this, That by this vnlawfull getting, manye of the best and most auncient houses in all Italy, were brought to vtter ruyne, and confusion.

The Indians disdayning such seruile attemptes, not onely mistlike of lending, but also forbade borrowing; neither is it lawfull for an Indian to proffer, nor agreeable for one of the Nation to suffer iniuries: disdayning among them both the vse of oblygations, and the abuse of pawning.

Hatefull was this errour in Licurgus Common weale of Sparta, whereas not onely the name was odious, but also the thing it selfe was asperlye punished.

Agis King of the same Citie, seeing the practises of the couetous to work so wõderfully as they seemed, not onely punished the attempters of vnlawfull proffite, but also in the open market place, hee burnt all the bondes and Oblygations of the rich Bankers in the Citie.

In Thebes it was by statute forbidden, that anye man should be put in office, that within tenne yeares before the election had practised any vnlawfull chaffering.

The Germanes in theyr tarations of antiquitie: whereas they bounde the Thæfe to restore double the thing he stole, they ordeyned that the vsurer shuld make recompence foure folde for his iniurie. And in

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borrowing the felicitie of all these Countries, we are not so happie, as to abridge those errours that they most mislike: But here perhappes some curious maintainer of vnnecessarie members will conclude, that the state cannot anie wayes bee hindered by anie these actions, inferring that the dissolution of one familie, is the setting vp of another: which in as many vertues maye match, and with as greate value imploye it selfe in the state, as the other that is decayed.

Hereunto I shap this aunswere, that if it bee true, that the nobilitie of the Father worketh in the childe, I cannot see howe these vpsittes maye anie waies employe themselves in honourable Actions, when as neither their auncestours euer knewe more then their Weeds, or their Fathers other then vnlawfull gaines: and howe canne it bee that where the minde onely worketh in seruile subiects, it should anie waies be eleuated to attempt honourable exploits: But be it these sorte of men are necessarie both in theselues, & for their Countrie, which cannot be concluded, in that they be broken members: yet must they conclude by the (touchstone of truth) the Scriptures, that their necessarinesse in this world, makes them vnnecessary for God: by whose presidents if they should leuell their lawes, I am afraid the graft wold be so stiffe in the bending, that it would be rather thought more necessarie for the fewell, then worthy the correction. In the most happiest man y euer was, whether philosopher or otherwise, I find this, y one onely blemish in his actions hath made them benoted for an error: now if these men shuld in their enterprises be gayde into, I feare me y as in the black Jet is seene no white: in the deadlie poison is founde no preseruatiue: in the sprouting iuie, no fruite: on the vnnecessarie thistle no grapes: so in these men the mischiefe

thiefe' woulde be so manifest, that the shew of vertue would be extinguished. So that I can necessarily conclude this, that both these sorte of men are vnnessearye for themselves, vnneete for their countrey, vnfit for a family, yea conuenient for nothing, but to present the painter with the true image of couetousnes. For themselves how can they be profitable, in destroying theyr soules, and martering their bodies: in consuming themselves with thought, in deuising of newe attemptes to delude. If they compare but their hearts sorow, with their excesse gain, they shall finde this most certain, that the encombzances of the minde are so peysant, that they doo by oddes weigh downe their commoditie in the bal-lance. What is it to get good, and to lose happinesse? to enioye much riches, and little rest? to haue manye Lordships, and much hart-bzeake? Alas, what are the goods of fortune, that they should entice? or the plesures of the flesh, that they should allure? If our stately pal-laces were to continue permanent, if our worldly riches were to make our after yeares renowned, if eue-ry thousand of our ducates, were to benefit vs but with a hundred good precepts: I wold beare with couetousnes with the best, & practise it with the most: but since we see that much hoarding cannot be without sinne, much get-ting without grieffe, much profite without paine, much increase of goods, without decrease of vertues, I cannot but conclude with the philosophers, that the hoarding vp of riches maketh many impressions of vices. And that those that are no wayes profitable for themselves, are not woorthy the names of citizens in a state: whereas, when all things should be limited by vertue, how can vsury be winkt at, when it is no way legitimate. Our lawes in this state, although they suffer a commoditie, yet confirme not they taking: concluding heerein, a meruaylous pollicye: to those haue in sight, which is,

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that leauing it euident, that where neither Lawe of God can limit them, nor disposing of right suffer them, nor pꝛeuention of errours withdꝛawe them from puniſhing this erroꝛ, and not letting it ſlip, they as willyng to pul away by pꝛee-meales, as to confound altogether; like wiſe Surgions eat out the dead fleſh, by ſundꝛye plaiſters, and no ſodaine coꝛoſiue, thereby wiſely warning the wiſe to pull back by curteſie, and the indurate by beholding their foꝛberance, to feare the ſcourge when it ſhal come.

Yet ſonie will heere adde and inferre, (though vnneceſſarily,) that thoſe whom I heere ſo aſperlye reprehend, are as religious as the beſt, haunt the Church with the moſt, at their buriall be as bountifull as the godlieſt, and therefore it may not be thought, that ſeeing ſo many goods, they ſhould follow the bad. To whom I aunſwere, If they heare coꝛrection of ſin by often haunting of ſermons, yet continue their wickedneſſe, when they know what it woꝛketh, their actions are wicked, their liues diſſolute, their endes desperate. Foꝛ theyꝛ bountie at their burialls, that is but their laſt action, & their beſt attempt: but if we looke into the conſiderations of their benificence, I doubt not but we ſhall finde whereas their ſhewe wꝛingeth them. If they are liberall to leaue them a memorie when they are gone, alas they ſtrive againſt the ſtreame: foꝛ this it will fall out, perhaps they ſhal haue a few poꝛe womēꝛs pꝛaiers foꝛ their blacke goſones, but a thouſande decayed Gentlemens curſes foꝛ their high exactions. If they be bounteous in hope to recompence y^e which is paſt, alas it is as much, as to caſt water to ſtop a gappe, oꝛ gather bzambles to builde mannoꝛ houſes. If they be loꝛt into in this their penie doale, we ſhall finde a kinde of impulſion in all thinges: Truly, truly, I feare mee, if Mas vſurer
knewe

knewe he shoulde liue, hee had rother haue a sayre
pawne for his foure nobles, then a thousand prayers
of a poore woman: and the forsaiture of a Lease for his
xx. poundes, then the funerall Epitaph of the vniuersi-
ties for his last willes liberalitie. Since therefore im-
pulsion forceth them to be bounteous, not free will, libe-
rall, we must accompt of them thus, that both they
are both vnworthie praise, being vnwilling to be boun-
tifull, and little to be esteemed of, though their pretence
bee neuer so perfect. What praise deserueth he that will
proffer medicines to a whole bodie: or the spur to a wil-
ling horse, or the raine to an vnwilde colt, or hono-
r to a peruerse man: shall we conclude, because he vsurer is rich,
he is righteous? Because wealthie? Wise: because full
of golde, therefore godly? I feare me it wil fall out that
some of our scrape penies, are as worthie to be deliuered
to perdition, as Sauanarota of Rome, of whom Marubius
maketh mention) who not satisfied with excessiue gain in
his life time, at his death became a praie to diuells: It
greeueth me to consider of he vnhappy state of some, who
like fine cloth are deuoured with these moths, like white
cambrycke are stained with this yron mould: & silly
birds, are deceiued with the call of this Fowler. O vn-
happy state, stained with so vnprofitable members, whose
feete tread the wayes of errours, mindes imagine mis-
chiefe, heartes are indurate, confounding the fatherlesse,
oppressing the widow, making all poore, and themselves
onely rich.

A lamentable case it is, to see howe true sim-
plicitie, the maintainer of peace, is almost altoge-
ther exiled out our common weale: and that worlde-
lye wit doeth wade so farre, as heauenlye wise are
brought into admiration of their mischiefe. In o-
ther notable Gouvernementes and common weales,
this one vice hath hadde a fall, and heere where it
should

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should be most detested, it is most vsed. Great hath bene
our wis domes in repression of cōspiracies, great our po-
licies in maintaining of peace, circumspect our p̄uēti-
ons to eschew mutinies: and yet the long time we haue
laboured in this, yet dayly more and more it groweth
to head: and whereas the other vices haue bene exter-
minated by god, looking to, this (though altogether loa-
thed) is most lookt after. And in this case I must appeale
to you (right Honorable) whose wisdom is continual-
ly employed, to the maintenaunce of our state: & craue
you cast your eye aside, and but looke into the worlde a
lyttle, lette your Herauldes Bookes be spied into, con-
sider the state that hath bene, and now is: and I feare
me there will some teares fall, and more care be concei-
ued. Alas I know it well, that many auncient coates
will be found there vncountenaunced, and it is to bee
found out, that some sleepe on their beddes of downe,
in those mannoꝝ houses, which were builded for the
staye of some of our best noble seignioꝝ. Nay, is it not
true, that more are eaten out with vsury, then anye o-
ther abuse whatsoeuer? And although Commissions are
graciously graunted from her Maiestie, as a most mer-
cifull Prince, and from your Honoꝝ, as most sage, fa-
therly, and prudent tenderers of gentry, grown into po-
uertie: yet such is the contempt of some men, as they
neither measure commaund, noꝝ haue respect to consci-
ence. The reuerend Fathers and eyes of Religion in
this Common weale, how exclaime they on this vice,
and pronounce the wrathfull threates of the Almighty
against these vngracious gatherers: yet how slenderly
they regard them, their manifest & notorious mischieses
beare record. So that it is to be feared, that when neither
honourable commaund may controll them, noꝝ diuine ad-
monition reclaime them, they are growen into a repro-
bate sense, and haue forsaken the Law of the Lord, and
hunted after the whoꝝe, and are drunken with the ly-
cour

source of her abominations.

Principijs obsta sero medicina paratur,
Cum mala per longas inualuere moras.

Noble Lords, may it please you yet a little more to
giue me leaue, that as I haue manifested the mischeife,
so (to my slender conceit) I may imagine a salue. The
Nobilitie, Gentry, and other heires whatsoeuer, either
by reason of their Fathers tenour are wardes vnto her
Maiestie, or else by the tender prouision of their Pa-
rents, they are left to the discretion of their kinsfolke.
For those that by her Maiesties prerogatiue, by y death
of their Fathers, fall into her protection: the most part
of them are begged by Gentlemen, and committed to
their tuition: among whome, as there be some proui-
dent and carefull to consider of the chilles commoditie,
so (I feare me) other some are selfe minded, and greedy
of their owne gaine: which if so be it fall out, I feare
me the childe that is vnder this gouernment will hap-
pely miscarrie, for if maintenance come from the pro-
tecto: slenderly, the nature of the youth being noble,
will couet after supplie, and so through the couetousnes
of the one, growes the confusion of the other, and by this
meanes growes y Gentleman into y Merchants booke
in arrerages, when his warden furnisheth him not ac-
co:ding his degree and calling: but it may be, that there
be purposes imagined by the gouernour, and practised
by the Merchaut, so that the one will not be pertaker
of the shame, yet will he not sticke to beare part of the
gaine. But to let further matters wittingly ouerslip,
for that I finde it good to winke at somewhat: returne
we to the other sortes of heires, left to the tuition of
friends: among whome there growe lyke inconue-
niences, as in the former: for nowe a dayes kins-
folkes are as couetous as others, and as craftye as
the best, whose priuate conueyaunces the young heires
knowe, and seuerallye when they be sought into, will

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open. But for the ordering of all these thinges, and the recouering of this state, it were conuenient that the Warden of the Wardes vnder her Maiesties protection, should at the receit of the Gentleman, be bound according to the value, to the honourable, that haue authoritie in that case, for the blage of the Gentleman, and that certaine stipend might be set downe annuallye for his prouision, rather with the most then least, so that then it will fall out, that hauing sufficient of his owne, he will not depend on the supplie of another. The like animaduersion if it bee had in respect of the other, and the care of taking the bonds, and pressing the portion set downe by the direction of certaine Iustices of peace in euerie shære, we shoulde haue lesse complaints to trouble your honours, and merchauntes should want young ministers to ridde them of their refuse comoditie. I haue glaunced into a matter (my good Lord) which if wil dome consideratly looke into, there will growe an exquisite platforme. These causes right honourable are necessarie, and needfull to be noted, and such they be, that no doubt they will be as beneficiall to the state, as anie other whatioeuer. For by this meanes your honours shall be praised, the wardens wel thought of, the Gentleinen kept in good state, and the Merchant abridgde of his craftie dealings. I haue heard this cause lamented of among the most part of that profession, who loth their title should be attributed to so outrageous dealers. If they will desire the name, let them vse the nature, & let not all the whole order bee blemished, by a few disordered dealers blame: but to leaue this to your honourable and graue consideration, and to returne to your curteous Gentlemen, to whome this matter most pertaineth, & for whose onely cause this pain is taken: I most earnestly besæch you looke into your owne states, & consider with your selues, the misery & mischief that groweth by these follies: consider y^e end of all these practises,

lives which the vsurers doe put in vze, forsooth it is to make you beggers, where now your supplies be plentiful, & to emptie your purses, where now they are replenished: consider of their mercie, either it is imprisonment, or else libertie with more shame: weygh of their ends agreeing to theyr life: it was a pretie and wittie saying which was written.

Auaro quid mali optes ni vt viuat diu.

Wish a coustous man no more mischiese, then that he may liue long. For he dieth daily in care, and consumeth in thought: refraine prodigalitie, so shall you haue no need of the: bee continent, so shall you be sought to of them: leaue them to their owne lusts, they are not of y Lord: let your garments be comely, & not costly: for a comly continent man is more esteemed of, then a costly spende thriste accompted of. It is the vertues of your mindes, the perfections of your vnderstandinge, your intellectuall contemplacions, that makes you accounted of among the wise, and beloued among the learned: In your professions be studious, for y brings profit: an houre well spent, is better then a dayes pleasure: eschew those things that may decay your memory, & in euery good action continue to the end: trust not to apparant goodes, beleeue not credulously y faire spoken, be as prouident to eschew trouble, as the enuious is prudent to procure your discomfort: looke on nothing that may altar you from a man, thinke on nothing that may mislead you; if you promise, performe it, but in promising vse discretion: these be the fruites of experience, learnt by some in sorrowe, and lette them bee practised by you in securitie. Let not the garish shew of a present pleasure, the sillie shadowe of an earthlye deleyght, a transitorie similitude of a momentanye gloze, make you followe that which wyl coste you manye sighes and sundrye sorrowes (when you looke into your state, and see howe you are

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compassed of friendes, smilde vpon by fortune, beautified by nature, perfected by art, when you perceiue care hath not yet sorrowed your forehead: labour euen then to continue friendes, to make peace with fortune, to mainetaine nature, to studie arte, and being freed as yet from trouble, sence your actions so strong, as they may neuer become troublesome. Aurelius in his Court seeing certaine Philosophers vsing vnseemely iestures, wagging their heads, toying with theyr garments, and stamping with their feete, gathering by their exteriour behauiour, how vnapt their actions were in respect of their precepts, expelled them the court, as vnmeet to be preferred to honours. Although not Marcus Aurelius, but wise Saba now gouerning, think you that gracious Elizabeth cannot as well finde out a baine head vnder a wauiing feather, a dissolute minde vnder a codpæce dublet, a wanton thought vnder a straunge habite, as the Emperour vnder a lyght iesture: Yes truely (Gentlemen): no doubt but that eie y winketh at most things, seeth many, and that wonderfull capacitie that comprehendeth so much discipline, cannot ouerslip the mislike of making brauerie. If one error were as much banished England, as it was Rome, neither should idlenesse offer the couetous opportunitie, neither the idle be couened by the couetous. It is idlenesse that maketh amorous, it is idlenesse that maketh factionatue, it is idlenesse that breeds excelle, it is idlenesse that destroyeth all humane happinesse, the eye fixed on heauenlye contemplations, gazeth not on earthlye beautie, the thought occupied on remembrance of moral preceptes, neuer vouchsafe the misdeemings of the fantasie: y bodie subdued by assiduous trauaile, is neuer altered by the motions of the flesh: the hope grounded on immortality, hath not reference to an houres pleasures. So that man is neuer altered in himself, enimie of himselfe, procurer of his parents troubles: but euen their
chief

chiefly, where idleness is predominant, folly preferred, & fashions to feed fantasies allowed of. The meanes then to auoyd the Vsurers booke, is to be continent: the way to be continent, is not to be idle: the reward of not being idle, is the daily increase of more knowledge: and the increase of more knowledge maketh a man happie. The King of the Aspe confoundeth in slumbers, the venonie of idlenesse, waiteth carelesse opportunities: truly gentlemen, the first step to auoyd expence, is to grow in contempt of brauerie, which if our noble younge youtnes wold practise for a while, it wold so fall out, y not onely vaine fantasies should cease, fonde fashions finde no fauourers, and the vsurer hauing his odde refuse commodities dead in his hand, would either afforde better peniworths, or seeke for foireine traffique. But to leaue you Gentlemen to your good counsailes, and returne to you good master vsurers, whose cares glowe at the rehearsall of these enormities, I must pray you giue mee leaue to make vp a conclusion, and to finish these fewe lines with an admonition for your cause; and though the corrections I vse be bitter, account of them the better, for why they be more cordiall. A greedie desire of gayne, is the disease that infecteth you, some termes it thristincesse, some neernesse, but in plaine termes, it is vsurie: and that is nought els but a greedie desire of other mens goods, and this by the commandement is forbidden to be followed, and therefore irreligious are they that vse it. The man that coueteth gold, conceiueth not goodnesse, his appetite is of the earth, and those that are earthly minded, saour not the things that are of God. What though you cloath your selues in simplicitie of Doves, and your inwarde habite be worse then the voracite of Molues; he that made you knoweth you, and he whom you offend can (and will) punish you; you wil say you were naturally bozne, (as Tully witnesseth) to take care for your selues, and to prouide Victum & ve-

st. ij.

stium,

An Alarum

stium, meate and clothing : and I graunt it, but to here
find you, either Ethnike, prophane, or sacred sentence, to
confirm your extreame hoarding vp of golde, yea then
most earnestly, when you are most rich: The laboursonne
Ant gathereth not in exesse, but sufficient prouision for
the Winter, yet without reason: and you which are rea-
sonably borne, hoarde vp more, then orderly (at first
sight) you well knowe howe to imploy. You long after
Nabals vineyard with Iesabel, but the dogs shall deuour
you in the gate : you heape house vpon house, land vpon
land, Quasi numquam sit perituum seculum, as though
this world would last euer, but sodainly shal the wrath
and curse of the Lord fall vpon you, and (without spee-
die repentance) he will consume you in a moment. O
turne speedely vnto the Lord, and put not off from daie
to daie, least his wrath be hot against you, and he make
you pertakers of the plagues of Chore and Abiram. Re-
member your olde escapes that haue past you, consider of
their falls that are decayed by you, and your selues if
you haue anie contrition, and compunction of heart, wil
lament the generall misfortune with me. Did you arise
of nothing? Were you calde from base degree to high e-
state? From poore seruants wer you made rich masters?
Why, your goods make answere, laying, you haue more
then you can well spend, and I deeme the greater your
talent is, the more you haue to answere for: but weigh
in your selues, howe this greate masse of money grew
vnto you : you must count that this Farme came to
your handes by the forfayture of such a Lease : this
money became yours, by the vertue of such an Obliga-
tion : you haue scrapte vp this ready coyne, by making
Centum pro cento : nay, you haue vndone these manye
poore Gentlemen, onely by iuriching your selfe. Too
true it is, (alas) (and wisdom privately bewaileth it,
to looke into your crueltie, and Gentlemens folly) that
ma

against Vsurers.

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many houses are decayed by your meanes, and that you are Lords of that, which should be the portion of more profitable subiects: whose miserie driueth them to trie conclusions in all places: and both to forsake their Countrey, I pray God not to alter their conscience.

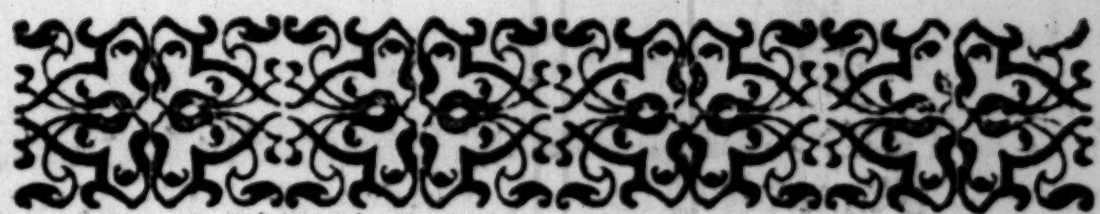
Pray in these extremities that they are driuen into, which of you either releueth them: or comforteth them in their sorowes: so farre are you (you worldlings) from lessening their miseries, as that (Perillus like) you inuent new tortures, to driue them from your doores, calling them varabonds, and bryde well birdes: who in very truth were your best Masters and setters by: but your selues with Perillus shall tast of the engines you haue prouided for others, and the Lorde shall pittie the fatherlesse, and comfort the afflicted, when that dreadfull daye shall come, in which the heauens shall be opened, and the Sonne of man shall come to iudgement: how will the case then stand with you: shall your welth then acquite you: No, no, the Judge is not partiall, he is iust in all his doings, and true in all his sayings. In that day the horrour of your conscience shall condemne you; Satan whom you haue serued shall accuse you; the poore afflicted members of Christ shall beare witnesse agaynst you; so that in this horrore and confusion, you shall desire the mountaines to fall vpon you, and the hills to couer you from the fearfull indignation of the Lord of hostes, and the dreadfull condemnation of the Lambe Jesus. When it shall be found out, that you were rich, yet releued none: that you were of wealth, yet comforted none: that you rather replenished the prisons, then released the prisoner: that your life be found sated with crueltie, and no one action sauoring of mercie: the Lord shall place you among the goates, & pronounce his Ve against you, he shall thunder out this sentence, Goe you cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the diuell.

An Alarum

diuell and his angeles. This is the reward of wickednesse, this is the punishment of crueltie: looke vpon this therefore (you worldly minded men,) and consider of these sayings: harden not your hearts, but be you conuerted, releue the poore, be harboursome, restore to the owner that you haue wrested from him, and turne, turne, turne vnto the Lord (I beseech you) least you perish in your owne abominations: and to conclude, account of me as your wel wisher, who for publike commoditie haue opened your inconueniencies, and for brotherly amitie, counsailed you to call your selues home: and I beseech you as speedely reclaime you from your errors, as I doe brotherly admonish you of your escapes. How happie were I that hauing lesse cause, might haue lesse matter to write on: And haplesse are you, if not won with these warnings, you giue more occasion to be written on: now say you where you are, & alter your natures, and where you were accustomed to doe ill, now acquaint your selues to follow goodnes; and then it will thus fall out, that I which exclaimed vpon you for your vices, will then honour you for your vertues: & where in common assemblies your name growes odious, in publike audience you maye be praised for your good life. The Lord send our Gentlemen more wit, our vsurers more conscience, and vngodlinesse a fall: so Nobilitie shall not decay, but the sinner shall be reclaimed, and wickednesse confounded.

FINIS.

Truth



THE DELECTABLE

Historie of Forbonius and Prisceria.



In Memphis (the chiefest citie of Aegypt) a place most renowned by reason of the opulencie of the princes that haue gouerned that Monarchie: at such time as Sismi-
mithres was head Priest of the same, & Hidaspes gouernour of the Province, a noble Gentleman called Forbonius (highly accounted of for his vnreprouable prowesse, and among the best sort allowed of for his vnspcakable vertues) made his abode, whose tender yeares not yet subiect to the experience of more riper iudgement (as the winding Iuie about the stately Oke) entangled it selfe with many amorous objects, now allowing this choice, now approuing y^e person, straight admitting a third. But the fates hauing registred his last opiniō in euerlasting & permanent destinie, made his manifolde aspectes (as yet not stayed) to light vpon one seemely impression, and to allow of but one onely paragon: yet so sealed they his opinion, as (if it be true that the gods euer were lasciuious) I thinke the chiefest commaunder of the Heauens might vouchsafe of such dalliance, and be onely amorous in this, that knowing heauenly perfections to be resident in earthly substance, he would either borrow fire of Venus to make the creature pliable, or carrie fire into the heauens from whēce Prometheus first did steale lightning. Fauorable
was

The Historie of

was the climate, that allowing vniuersally to all the creatures it compassed onely, blacknesse, boughsated Prisceria (Forbonius mistres) such sweet fauor, who borne of noble parents within the citie, (as of Solduuius, vize, roie of that Province adioyning to the citie, and Valduvia, daughter and heire of Theagines of Greece, the copartener of sorowe with Caricleala, the straunge borne childe of the Aegyptian king :) not onely match al titles of honour with exquisitenesse of proportion, but also so coupled the perfections of the minde, with the proportion of the bodie, as rather nature might disdain her industrie, not art repent her of the dowrie she had granted her: this sweet fixed Comet coasted Forbonius affectiōs, who like the careful Marriner, hauing (amidst the frostie night) sought for his Loade starre, and at breake of morning (his eies almost dazled with looking) found it out: so our noble young Gentleman, hauing past ouer many personages in a slight ouer take, at last finding out his mistres allotted him by fate, yeilded willingly vnto importunitie of the Destinies, and wonne altogether to bee subiect, being captiued with fancie, hee applyed himselfe wholye to the accomplishment of his desires, and the attainment of his mistresse fauour: and for that the Goddesse of loue is plyable to all benignitie, as not suffering a true seruitour to bee long vnrwarded: it so fortunied, that she prosperously furthered our noble Aegyptian in his purpose, preferring him by opportunitie to the sight of his desired pleasures: for the propinquitie of their abode was such, as that Priscerias chamber windowe, had a prospect into Forbonius garden, by which meanes, the Gentleman in his meditations might beholde his mistres, and Prisceria (being by the equitie of the destinies prefigured to straunge misfortune) might haue occasion to looke, and seeing, might loue: but as this conueniencie was favourable one waie, so was the frowarde disposition of the

the

Forbonius and Prisceria.

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the parents, vntoward on the other parte. for Soldanius, whether lead thereto by appointment, or driuen to the exigent, by some former mallice borne by the progenitors of Forbonius had neither a lyking to the youth, nor a longing to haue his daughter marryed: eyther lead by couetousnesse, for that he woulde not stresse his coffers, or by enuie, for that he contemned Forbonius: yet what is concluded secretly amidst the heauens, cannot be circumuented with mans circumspection: for Forbonius as one which depended onely on the fauour of Prisceria, though fortune had bereft him of occasion to inioy, yet would not he be seuered from the benefite to behold her whom he loued: who warmed with the same fire, in increasing his flame, kindled her owne fancie, & being as willing as the other to procure remedie to her passion, with manye chaunge of coulours, and sundrye sweete aspects, opened that to her seruant, which he wished for in his mistres: who (with like sorowes requesting euerie circumstance) as one willing and borne to attempt: at such time as Prisceria solitarily solaced her selfe at her window: in mournfull melodye (making his Lute tunable to the straine of his voice) he recorde this Sonet.

THE Turtle pleased with his she compeare,
With sweet aspects, and many a turning lure,
Describes the zeale in tearmes should well appeare,
If nature were so gracious to assure
The silly bird with speech as well as I:
Who stopt of speech by turnes my woes descrie,

And though perhaps my tearmes by distance be,
Seaioynd from thee: I wis my mournfull mone,
Doth pearce thine cares, and Eccho tells for me,
In sowre reports: would she and I were one,

G.ii,

For

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For whom I liue, and whom I onely loue,
Whose sweet aspects my dying fancies moue,

And if the aire by yeelding calme consent,
Make sweet Prisceria priuie to my suite,
Vouchsafe deere sweet, that beautie may relent,
And graunt him grace, whom distance maketh mute;
So either hope shall make me climbe the skie,
Or rude repulse enforce my fancies flie.

Prisceria not altogether priuie to the report, yet concluding all purposes to hir owne fantasie, conceyuing by his manifolde sighes, aspects, and motions, wherevnto he applyed his actions, with a solempne sighe, as wishing him present, and a seemely bent, as requiting his curtesie, betooke hir selfe to hir pillowe, where comparing euery accident together, both of the zeale shee bare to Forbonius, and of the profer he proffered to her, she brake out into these speeches.

Alasse (vnhappie Prisceria) what vntoward destinie hath befallen thee? That in thy flowering yeares and prime of beautie, thou art become a thrall to vncertaine pleasure, neyther knowing from whence the errour first sprong, nor by what Treacles it may at last bee expelled. If it bee that nature enuying my perfections hath allotted mee this purgatorie, that hauing at free becke all the benefites of Fortune, yet I should with inwarde bondes bee chained with the holdfast of fancie. Alasse that in prefixing the torment, shee hath not proffered a remedye, or in bestowing an vblee, hath not vouchsafed a corrasie. Howe straungely am I martyred, sillye maide that I am? That by one onely looke haue conceyued such an impression, as neyther arte can alter with medicine, nor time eat out with continuance.

Woe is mee that I loue, yet fortunate am I
that

Forbonius and Prisceria.

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that I hate not, for by the one, I am depriued of lyber-
tie: by the other, I shall overpasse the sorrow by sure-
nesse. Yet are thy thoughts more fauorable to thee Pri-
sceria, then the successe in thy loue will be fortunate.
Thou louest Forbonius, and why: for his vertue: yet thy
father hateth him vpon olde grudges, with whom when
rancour preuaileth, what may be more lookt for, then
contempt and denyall? But Forbonius seeketh Priscerias
fauor, not Solduius friendship: but Prisceria cannot en-
ioy Forbonius, without Solduius fauor. But Forbonius
will by happie marriage conclude all mallice, but thy
father hauing an enuious mind, will haue a suspitious
eare. Alas why imagine I wonders in my fancy, hoping
that those destinies (which inthralled my affection) wil
subiect my fathers resolutions: since neither reason al-
loweth me any probabilitie to worke vpon, neither hath
Forbonius any motion as I see to compasse ought: well,
to the satisfaction of my friend, and to the contentment
of my sorrowing hart: my freend shall know my zeale,
and I will continue my affection, which being begun
with so wonderfull causes, must needs finish with a
miraculous effect.

With these conclusions she fell a sleepe, leauing me
to returne to Forbonius, who being tormented with the
same furie, and troubled with equall fancie, seeing his
light to be eclipsed, I meane his Distresse vanished, be-
gan heauely to complaine himselfe in these or such lyke
termes.

Alas you destinies, whose courses are ineuitable:
how fortuneth it, that in bestowing casualities in mans
life, you prescribe not meanes to preuent misfortunes:
and onely beginning to fester the heart, prescribe no pre-
sidents, whereby the humours may be expelled. If all
things are to be referred vnto an ende, what may I wel
imagine of my estate: who intercepted by all occasions,
must either finish my misfortunes miserably, or despe-

G.ij.

rate

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rately. O loue, iustly maist thou be counted licentious; whereas thou neither prescribest limites to thy selfe, to inthral: nor meanes to thy subiects to attain libertie. But why exclaime I on him, that hath blest me with a benefit: as though the fate that made Forbonius happie in louing, cannot establishe his successe, as that it shall not be measured by misfortune. I glorie in the benefit of my martirdome, since a certain inward hope assureth me, that diuine beautie cannot be sequestered from iust pittie, nor a tried seruice in loue, requited with a disdainfull hate. But foolish man that I am, how maye it be, that in seeking beautie, I labour not to attaine it? & desiring to enioy a benefit, I attempt not to make triall of my Distresse bountie? Why, by last nights becke she boughsased some shew of acceptaunce: and that may as well be of reproue as lyking. (O Forbonius,) it is a silly hope that is conceiued by signes, either attempt further, or perswade thy selfe of no fauour. Her father (silly wretch) enuieeth thee, and thinkest thou to compasse his daughter: alas, faint hope is this when as those that should build vp, doe destroy: when such as shoulde perswade, doe dissuade: when as he that dooth commaund most earnestly, dooth forbid. But loue hath no respect of consanguinitie, but hauing onely relation to him which he fauoureth, delighteth onely in the possession of his choyce, yet is not Forbonius, sure she loueth: well, I see he that will be fortunate, must hazard, and that man that will be gracious in his Distresse eye, must by outward attempts and vnaccustomed purposes, seeke to confirme his happinesse.

Whereupon (vpon sundry conclusions) he inferred thus, that the next day, by certaine rare attemptes, hee would either finish that he had so long sought for, or perish in the perfourmance of his enterprize: and the day seruing to attempt that which he imagined by night, he bethought himselfe of the Gymnosophists of y^e countrey,

they, among whom rememb'ring one of singular experience, and notable learning, he resorted vnto him, opening first, how he was inthralled by fancie, how precluded by all occasions, especially by the fathers disdaine, next, how some opportunitie serued him, lastly how the agony tormented him, desiring the Philosopher, whose wisdome coulde see into all causes, to search out the fatall Eri-gent of his loue. Appollonius (for so the Gymnosophist was called) hauing calculated the Gentlemans natiuitie, and seeing some planets retrogate: couering the asperitie of the destinies, with the hidden secrecie of an Artist, discoursed thus.

¶ Forbonius, if as Socrates did his golde, thou drown thy affections, it would follow that with him thou shouldest enioy free libertie of thy selfe, and not suffer thy affects to rule thy reason. Art thou bewitched by Circes? of a humane shape hast thou gotten a beastly forme: of a man bo'ne to reasonable actions, wilt thou now swallow an vnreasonable misfortune? If many cares be the decayers of the minde, if many sorowes the consumers of the body, better were it by day to studie the lyberall Sciences, then at such time as we shoulde imploye our selues to honourable attempts, to become vnhonourably licentious. Alas Forbonius considering what a loue is, what a loue suffereth, what a loue seeketh, I finde the person idle minded, I finde his patience an insupportable sorow, I finde himselfe not himselfe, in y^e he is vnreasonable. The daily actions of a loue are discommendable, the night exclamations so odious, as that they in this couert nature, who shadowing y^e world with darknes, limitt'g each creature his rest, yet they euen in y^e time labor in out-cries, in which they shuld take conuenient rest. My good friend, y^e grettest wisdome is to measure euery attempt wth his casualties, & if ought happen y^e may seeme impossible, to cast off the rayne, and suffer it to passe in that forme it was concluded in.

Thou

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Thou louest (Forbonius,) better wer it thou didst loath :
fo: by loathing thou canst but be compted vnnaturall,
but by louing thou mayst fortune to be vnfortunate.
If all thinges be ordered by the higher powers , it is
wayne you must conclude to infringe what is conclu-
ded on, if the destenies haue appoynted, that Forbonius
shall not be happie in inioying Prisceria, Forbonius is
not reasonable in suing fo: Prisceria. Unhappie Paris in
Helen, though fortunate in inioying her beautie : but
when loue begins with a fading benefit, it endeth with
an euerlasting sorrow. The conclusion of a wise man
must be , to yelde to the necessitie of Fate, and to
continue contented with that which cannot be altered
by succession. Tell me by the immortall Gods, my good
friend I beseech thee, what happines conceiuest thou pos-
sible to follow, either in enioying thy Lady, or finishing
thy loue? Alas, the greatest swete is a continuall sorow-
er, and after many vnfortunate repulses, a sodain mis-
fortune makes an ende of many a yeares courting. I
speake all this to this ende (my Forbonius,) because I
would preuent that by counsell in thee , which other-
wise (if thou follow thine owne lure) will be a confu-
sion to thy selfe. Thou comest to me fo: counsell to com-
passe loue, and I would confirme thee, that thou should-
est auoyd the occasions of following loue. Thou woul-
dest by my meanes strayne arte to subdue nature , yet
I labour both to direct by arte, and to suppress by na-
ture. Truly (my good friend) looking but to the hidden
secretes of nature, I finde thee subiect to manye misfo:-
tunes, and no way to be remedied but by one only ver-
tue. Thou shalt (after long toyles) passe that thou
hopest fo:, yet when thy greatest pleasures begin to take
the originall : euen then shall they finde their exigent .
Since therfore the reuolutions of the heuens conclude,
that by onely continent forbearaunce, thou shalt be dis-
burdened of many misfo:tunes, I beseech thee lette this
trans-

Forbonius and Prisceria.

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transitorie pleasure be accompted off as it is, and finish
up thy loue with my counsell: so shalt thou be fortunate
in preuenting destenie, and continue in happines, wher
too much loue may make thee vnluckie.

Forbonius lead by the inconstant opinion of his young
yeares, not waying the graue and fatherly counsell of
Appollonius, answered him thus.

O Father, when the wound is giuen, it is ill coun-
sayling how to auoyd the stripe, and when the heart is
captiuated, there can be but small recovery by counsell:
how wer it possible for me to restrain that in my selfe,
which the Gods could not limit in their Deities? Ca-
se it is for the whole Phisition to counsell the sick pa-
tient, but when y^e extremitie wzingeth excessively, none
bideth the martirdome but the afflicted. O Appolloni-
us my minde measureth not the iniquitie of fate, ney-
ther doe I seeke limits for that, which by no direction can
be exterminated from out my heart. So that good father
rather respect my present sute, then my future discom-
moditie, and by your counsell make ende to my sor-
rowes: whereby it will thus come to passe, that enioy-
ing the pleasure I long wish for, I may more boldlye
beare the assault of froward fortune when it cometh.
If it be onely death, that my enemye fate threteneth
me with, let me enioye this benefit, as for fortune, I
will be friende to her enemye, the which is the graue,
and acquainting my soule but with the onely Idea of
my Distresse, thinke my selfe as happie, as they that
haue walkt the Elisian fieldes, a long space to their con-
tent.

Appollonius willing to doe him good, yet sorrie hee
could not preuaile with his counsaile, at length began
thus.

Since my Forbonius thou wilt be ruled by no coun-
sayle, thou must be pertaker of thine owne sorrowe. As
for thy request, I will so satisfie thee, as not onely thou
shalt

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shalt at thy pleasure conceine thy Mistresse minde, but also open vnto her the secrettes of thy heart, by which meanes thou shalt heerein haue accomplishment of thy wish, though in so doing thou shewe but lyttle wisdom. Whereupon, resorting to his studdie, he brought forth a mirrour of notable operation, a practicke in prospectiue, which deliuering to Forbonius, he commended it thus.

O my friend, I deliuer thee that heere to feede thy humour, which was composed to comprehend Arte. In this myrrour thou maist after thou hast written thy minde: taking the Sunne beame, send the reflection to thy mistresse eye, wherby she may as legibly read thy letters, as if they were in her handes, and by thy instructions made priuie to the secrets of thy glasse, retourne thine answer in that very forme in which thou sendest. For the rest, I leaue it to your discretions, and good fortune, wishing all things to fall out as prosperously in your loue, as you would, and as I wish.

Our noble youth (In amours) hauing furnished himselfe of that he sought for, repayed vnto his studie, where deuising in what tearmes he might sollicite his Mistres, at last he cyphered out his sorowes in this sequel.

That fancie that hath made me thrall to thy beautie (Swæte Prisceria) commendeth my submission to thy good grace: beseeching thee to be as fauourable in ministring a remedie, as thy beautie was readie to procure my thraldome. I make no resist in this my louing torment, but onely yeeld my self subiect to thy impression. Maye it therefore please thee (Swæte Prisceria) to be as beneficial in this, as the Gods are in their bounty, who for euery faithfull interatie, returne a gratefull satisfaction. And heerein maist thou see my faith to be stedfast

Forbonius and Prisceria.

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last, since Arte it selfe serueth opportunities, and min-
streth me both a meanes to open my hidden sorowes,
and thee a messenger to betoꝝay thy silent secrets. I be-
sech thee (by the swete statues that are builded for the
Goddesse that is honoured in Paphos,) to be as iust in
returning fauour, as I am forwarde in betoꝝaying my
fancie: so shalt thou haue the possession of him, that is
by destinies appoynted thy assured beards-man, and I
enioy those pleasures, in which I may be only fortunate.
Will then I must write my self as I am, The most vne-
happiest louer that liueth.

Forbonius.

This cyphered out in faire charecters, and disposed in
such termes as his fancie then prefixed him, he toke his
way into his garden, waiting some necessarꝝe opportu-
nitie, to put his purposed attempts in practise, and to
betoyne his woes to Prisceria: who wounded with the re-
membꝛaunce of Forbonius perfections, and seeing no
waye but his presence a meane to expell sorowe, be-
toke her selfe to her accustomed prospecte, and with
longing lokes she leuelled at his loue, which was alre-
die stricken with her beautie.

The Gentleman fitted by these conuenient occasi-
ons beganne his Philosophicall demonstration, and
taking his aspecte as necessarilꝝe as hee might, hee
presented Prisceria with his peniue submission: who
confirmed by so conuenient opportunitie, betaking
her selfe with all speede possible to her studie, and by
a becke charging him with no lesse dispatch to giue at-
tendance: she gaue annswere to his amorous intrea-
ties with this gracious affabilitie.

H. G.

The

The Historie of

The Climate Forbonius where vnder I was borne,
(believe me) either hath prefigured me the destiny
to be inamour'd by thee, or thee the subject that should
beset me: and truly herein the working of the Gods
are secret, who employ such thoughts in me, as now by
thy letters I finde wrought in thee, making a vnitie
in both those hearts, who by reason of parents enuies,
are like to finde satall conclusions. And whereas by ne-
cessitie of fate I finde my selfe wholly captivated to thy
pleasures, I doubt not but that God whome wee ho-
nour for his brightnesse, and who by his lightening mi-
nistreth to our misfortunes, will be fauourable in our
proceedings. For me, if thy constancie be such as my true
zeale is, I beseech thee by the same Goddesse to succour
me, by whome I found my selfe first inthralled and
made subject to thee: meane while I will write as thy
selfe, and rest as I am. The most unhappiest louer
that lyueth.

Prisceria.

These conclusions being ministered with the same
aspectes they were profered, the two poore couple had
no other meanes to noate the effecte of their priuate
ioyes, but onely by silent smiles, gracious regards, and
trickelyng teares, and such lyke amorous actions, each
one wishing the other, either happie in possessing their
deleyght, or fortunate, if by death they were releued
of their sorrowe: and being intercepted by the closure
of the euening, they betooke themselves both of them
to their restless pillows, concluding vpon many pur-
poses, how to finish their languishing and tormenting
martirdome.

Forbo-

Forbonius and Prisceria.

27

Forbonius as one boyn to attempt, concluded with himselfe, considering how fauourably all occasions salued vpon him) to attempt y^e stealing awaie of Prisceria: who poore soule in carefull dreames imagining of her dayes fancies, was forestaled of all fauour by the unhappie approach of her father, who furnished with all worldlye policies to preuent what he mistyked, and compasse that he suspected: perceiuing by his daughters solome aspects, some secret sorrow y^e troubled her, hauing remembred that axiome of the Philosophers, that dreames are the prefigurations of dayes sorrowe, watched his time so neerely, that euen at that verie instant he entered the chamber of his daughter, when drowned in her sweet delightfull dreames, she begā at his entrie to cry out thus. O fortunate Forbonius! which her father marking verie precisely, and concluding wherevpon the sigh tooke his holde fast, awaking his daughter on a sodaine, verie cunningly compassed her thus.

O my Prisceria, let it not seeme straunge vnto thee, to beholde thine aged Fathers vnaccustomable accesse, since he is now perplexed with vnacquainted feares. Alasse my daughter, thy father seeing thee beautifull, is not carelesse of thy comfort, neither can he that laboured to bring thee to lyght, suffer thee to passe thy dayes in loathsome mistyke. At this instaunt when I entered thy chamber, in thy dreame (as me seemed) thy soule betokening (as it shuld seeme) some daies sorrow or plesure, exclaimed thus: O fortunate Forbonius, thou knowest how hatefull the person thou diddest name is to thy father, who if he be fortunate in thy dowrie, I loue him: I shal esteeme him vnforsunate in the fauour thou wilt assure him: who being a collop of my flesh, wilt not allowe of that, which is loathsome to thy father: O Prisceria Soldanius seeth, and thy secreete dreames bewaite that the fortunacie of Forbonius, is eyther vnforsunate for thy selfe, or not allowable by thy Fathers opinion.

W. iij.

Thy

The History of

Thy chaunge of constitution, thy hidden sorrowe, my sweet child made me suspitious, but now the verie true messenger of thy minde confirming me, I must without circumstance conclude, that Prisceria loueth her fathers enimie, that Prisceria desireth Forbonius fauour, and detesteth her fathers choice, which if it be so, O my daughter, I feare me thy loue will not be so fauourable, as my disdain bitter, wherefore if thou art intangled, since thou knowest my opinion, forbear, or if no wisdom will conclude thee within limites, my displeasure shall exclude thee from out all benefit of my fauour. Choose now Prisceria, whether with calme perswasions thou wilt yeeld to my bent, or by vnaccustomed displeasure bee pertaker of thy Fathers wrath.

Upon these conclusions, Prisceria all abashed, shaking of the drowsinesse of her dreaming, made aunswere to Soldanius in these tearmes.

These straunge suppositions, my good Father, argue the slender opinion of your self, who by the vncertainest signs y may be, confirme your opinion as you please. In my dreames you said I called Forbonius fortunate, and may it not bee, that as my tongue vttered y it thought not, your minde imagineth that which is not: counting euery lyght shadowe a substance, and euery little similitude of truth, an vndoubted demonstration. Did I call thine enimie fortunate: Truly Father I feare me I might iustly conclude it, for he poore Gentleman little dreameth on displeasures, when at such time as rest should occupie your senses, you most trauaile in your rancour: by certaine tokens as you saie, you conclude, that I am affectionate, and by this silly conclusion of a dreame, you inferre an vndoubted trueth, that I am enamoured with Forbonius, and if perhaps the necessitie of the fates be such, Prisceria shall finde her selfe happie in loping Forbonius, by whose meanes
her

of Forbonins and Prisceria.

her Father may cease rancour ; and take rest, and his daughter satisfied with that she seeketh for, be no farther troubled with dreaming fantasies.

Soldanius perceyuing by these speeches the certaintie of his daughters affection, as one altogether enraged, calling vp his wife, and raising his seruants, left the silly maide all amased at his sodaine departure, whereas the olde man exclaiming vppon the disobedience of his daughter, and thundering out many reuenges against poore Prisceria, caused his horses to be saddled, and perforce (contrarie to her expectation) made her bee conuayed to Farnusium, a mannor house of his owne, a place for the solytarinesse more fit for a Tymon, then conuenient for a beautifull Ladie, the onely companie there being shepheards, who vpon the Vast mountaines recorded the praise of the Countrie fauourer Pan, and the rurall amitie betwene them, and their Countrie lasses. Thus from stately Court, from the regards of her sweet friend, from the pleasures that follow the Citie, her companions were rurall maidens, her re- tinue frolicke shepheardes : whose slight capacitie not yeelding anie comfort to allay the Gentlewomans sorrowings, made her (to her more hart grieve) continue her pensiuenesse, and sup vp her conceined sorrow in silence. But to repeat the moane on the other side that amorous Forbonius made, when by certain report he had notice of his mistres departure, were wonderfull, who being in himselfe altogether confounded, not knowing where to finde her out which was the onely mistres of his fantasie, Lord with how many sighes breathed he forth his sorrowe, and compassed on euerie side with despairing ioyes, in the verie same garden where tofore hee repeated his pleasures, hee in these waylesfull tearmes recounted his miseries.

Alas vnfortunate Aegyptian, whose faithfull affections are so immutable, as thy naturall colour is vnsustainable.
How

The Historie of

How iniurious are the destinies : that graunting thee life, they dayly hasten thy destruction, that boughsasing thee plesure, they suffer it not to be permanent: that admitting thee the benefit of beauties good grace, they deprive thee of the possession and blessing of that thou desirest. Alasse what shall befall mee : when the glorie of my eyes are dimmed : when the pleasures of my heart are determined : when the whom I loue nearest, is farther off from my presence : when the iniurious repulses of my father, makes euery attempt of Forbonius vnforgunate. Who is me, what way may I imagin to make an end of my miserie : Should I with despairing rashnesse finish by the Catastrophe of my troubles : Should I being bereft of her by whom I liue, dispossesse my selfe of that she most doth like : Should I in making my selfe onely fortunate by my alaie of my sorrows, leaue Prisceria to her daily mournings, both to lament my decesure, & her forward destinie : no Forbonius, it is but vaine quiet that is to her discontentment, who being equally inthralled wth thy selfe, will as willingly be pertaker of thy torment as thy self. But why waile I thus in feminine sorrow, when my happinesse is to be accomplished by manly attempt : Solduuius rigour hath caused Priscerias absence, yet cannot the fathers displeasure determine the daughters loue, she liueth to thy wish Forbonius, she loueth to thy weale Forbonius, she wilbe constant til death Forbonius, why shouldest thou then leaue her vnought for, Forbonius : Attempt vaine man, to seke out thine assured, let not the distance of place disanull thy good hap : Solduuius banishment is concluded within the limites of Aegypt, and since it is so, either Forbonius will attaine her he desireth, or reuenge the vniust rigour of an iniurious father.

Upon this resolution, as a man quite dispossessed of himselfe, he hastened to Apollonius, recounting vnto him how all things had fortun'd, beseeching him (not without

without foison of teares) to seeke out by art where Prisceria was conuersant, and to direct him by counsell, who altogether was confounded with dispaire. Apollonius by exterior signes conceiuing the interiour heartes-griefe, and seeing the poore young Gentleman martyzed so miraculously, comparing times and revolutions, attained to the knowledge of her aboad, and concluding in himselfe to comfort him, which almost dispaired, hee spake thus to Forbonius.

My good friend, whence groweth it, that neyther the nobilitie of thy auncestors: nor thy forepassed attempts: neither the benefit of thy mistres fauour can confirme thee, but that thou wilt be carefull for that which thou hast alreadie almost compassed. Pluck vp your heart my swete Forbonius, for thy Prisceria is not farre from thee. Farnusium a manno: house of her Fathers, seated East out of this Citie, whereas she is so circumspectly lookt into, that by anie meanes, vnlesse by secret and conuenient pollicie, thou canst come to the accomplishment of thy desire. Thou must therefore attyzed altogether like a shepheard, depart this citie, and by some conuenient meanes procure the keeping of some one Farmers sheepe, which is resident among those mountaines, by whose meanes thou shalt fall in acquaintance with the garden of thy mistres, called Sotto, and hauing conuenient occasion to satisfie thy affection, possesse thy selfe of y^e thou hast long desired.

Forbonius concluding his replie with hartie thanks, sodainly departed, & remembryng himselfe of one Corbo, a tenaunt of his, which had his mantion house verie conueniently, seated hard by the manno: house of Soldunius, he hastely shaped his iourney vnto him, & making him priue to y^e he desired, & swearing him to be constant & continue secret, he betooke himselfe to y^e keeping of his tenants sheepe, & not forgetting to driue his flocke nere vnto the laund wheras Soldunius seruants grased their

The Historie of

Therpe, he so demeaned himselfe, that not onely he attayned the fauor of Sotto which he sought for, but also for his courteous affabilitie was accounted of amōg y^e whole troupe of heards men for y^e best singer, & y^e tunablest Musition. His Aeglogs were so delectable, & the deliuery of them so delicate. Wherupon by good fortune it so fel out, y^e Forbonius vnder the coulourable name of Arualio, was desired by Sotto, to resort vnto y^e māno^r house, who informed him of all y^e hapned, telling him of the careful demeanour of his sorowful young mistres, who pleased with nothing but with solitarie musicke, pined her selfe awaie wth melancholy, & not without cause, (said he,) for my old master hath forbiddē me y^e admitting of any one to her presence, not suffering her to passe the limits of my warie eie: nor allowing her to walke wthout y^e castel walles for her recreation. For my sake therfore chaunt her some melodie, & resort with me to a conuenient arbour within our garden, whereas shee walking for her recreation, may perhaps take some delight in thy sorowfull mournings, in y^e they most fit her fantasie. Forbonius as willing to wend, as he desirous to perswade, accompanied Sotto to Farnulium, wher hauing a place appointed him to apply his Aeglogs, and the Goddesse before him whom he should deuine vpon, hee vnder these secrets described his passions.

A Midst these Mountaines on a time did dwell,
A louely shepheard who did beare the bell.
For I wete reports and many louing layes:
Whom while he fed his flocke in desert wayes,
A netheards daughter deckt with louely white,
Schelde and loude the lasse Corinna hight.
Him sought she oft with many a swete regard,
With sundrie tokens she her lutes preferd,
Her care to keepe his feeding flocke from stray,
Whilst carelesse he amidst the lawnes did play.

Her

Forbonius and Prisceria.

30

Her sweete regards she spent vpon his face,
Her Countrie cates she sent to gaine his grace,
Her garlands gaie to decke his temples faire,
Her doubled sighs bestowed on gliding aire,
Her pleasant kisse where she might steale a touch,
Corinnas zeales to Corulus was such.
He wanton shepheard glozping in her sute,
These signes of zeale to folly did impute :
Not waiping of her many louing sightes,
Her wattrie eyes, her secret moane by nights :
Her carelesse comfort in her fruitfull ewes,
Her moncfull Aeglogs full of carefull shewes,
But scorning that, (which might that Godhead moue,
Who in a shepheards forme, for Ioues behoue,
Did charme the watchman of the heifer faire,
For whose behoue the thunder left the aire.)
He left the place where she did loue to bide,
And draue his flocke another way beside.
Whose dire disdain (the God that kindles loue,
And makes impressions straungly from aboue
Mistaking) strake with fancie at that stower,
The silly shepheard wounded by his power.
Now sought for that which he tofore did shun,
And now the heat of fancie first begun,
To straine a yielding in his restlesse minde :
Such are the wounds that passe from fancie blinde,
That Corulus will now Corinna wee,
Though earst he loathd and scorned so to doe.
Now she that sought with many a sweete aspect,
Is lude to now by him that did neglect.
Now bountifull is sweete Corinnas grace,
Now like the Sunne in welkin shines her face,
Her eyes like Gemini attend on loue,
Her stately front was figured from aboue,
Her daintie nose of Iuorie faire and sheene,
Bepurpurate with ruddie roses beene.

A. G.

Her

The Historie of

Her cherie lips doth daunt the morning hie,
From whence a breath so pleasant did issue,
As that which laide faire Piches in the bayle,
Whome Cupide wooed and wooed to his auayle,
Within the compasse of which hollowe I wete,
Those orient ranks of silver pearles doe meete,
Desiring lyke perfection to the eie,
As silver colde amidst the summers skie:
For whence such wordes in wisdom couched be,
As Gods from thence fetch their Philosophie:
Her dimpled chin of Alabaster white,
Her stately necke where nature did acquite
Her selfe so well, as that at sodaine sight,
She wisht the worke were spent vpon her selfe,
Her cunning thus was shewde vpon the shelve:
For in this pile was fancie painted faire,
In either hand an asure pipe she bare:
By one repeating many a sweet consent,
By other comfort to the heart she sent.
From which a seemely passage there doth shew,
To strangers pleasures that are plast alow,
Like to the sorrowe Phaeton did leue,
Amidst the welkin when he did receiue,
His fathers charge, and set the world on fire:
In this faire path oft paced I wete desire,
At euerie turne beholding with delight,
That Marble mount that did affect the sight.
Of virgins ware the sweet impression was,
The cunning compasse thereof did surpasse,
For art concluding all perfections there,
Wrote this report, All graces bideth here.
Which Cupide spying built his mansion so,
As scorning those sweet graces to bestoe
On mortall man, with bowe bent doth waite,
Least loue should steale impressions by deceit.

Am

Forbonius and Prisceria.

31

And wondring at the crisped cament faire,
In thought concludes it master for the aire
Then mortall mould: next which the stately thies,
Like two faire compass marble pillars rise,
Whose white doth staine the daintie d:ruen snow:
Next which the knees with lustre bent below
Conioynd with hermes and cords of Amber & weete,
This stately pyles with glad some honour greete,
Such stately knees as when they bend a kite,
All knees do bend and bow with strange delyght.
Her calues with stranger compasse do succed,
In which the asures streames a wonder breede,
Both art and nature therein laboured haue,
To paint perfection in her fouldours b:ane,
Next which, the pretie ground worke of the pile,
Doth shew it selfe and wonder doth beguile,
The ioyntes whereof combinde of Amber & weete,
With corall cords, yeld bent to seemely feete.
From which, whose list to list his gasing eye,
Shall greater cause of wonder some espie.
When on the backe he bends his wauering looke,
In which the worke and taske Diana tooke,
When with Arachne for the prise she straued,
Both art and nature there excelled haue.
Where from Pigmaliions image seemely white,
Where close conueiaunce passing Gordians plight,
Where louely Nectar drinke for all the Gods,
Where enerie grace is stained there by ods.
Will not content with gasing looke for more,
And spie those armes that stand his sight befoze,
Which for their mould the Aegyptian wonders passe,
Which for their beautie staine the Christall glasse,
Which in their motion maister natures sweete,
Where blushing streames present a secrets meete,
Will now amaze, conclude at last of this,
That in the hands all grace concluded is.

I.iii.

Where

The Historie of

Where Nature limits ever fatall time,
Where Fortune figures pleasure in her prime,
Whence spred those fingers tipt with Iuorie,
Whose touch Medusas turne may well supplie,
Where to conclude as now the shepheard deemes
All grace, all beautie, all perfections seemes.
Thus Corulus with many secret thoughts,
Diuines on her whom erst he set at naughts :
And forst by scorch of inward shrowded fire,
He seekes for her his fancie did require.
Who fraught with woes in secret shrowdes renude,
Her silent grieve vnure of that insude.
Her Corulus with warie search at last
At sodaine found : and as a man agast
At that he saw, drew backe with feare, and than
Remenbring of his woes his sute began :
O sweete Corinna blessed be the soyle
That yelds thee rest amidst thy dayly toyle,
And happie ground whereon thou satest so:
Blest be thy flocke, which in these lawnes doe go,
And happie I, but hauing leaue to looke :
Which said, with feare he paued, and bloud forsooke
His pale face, till she that wrought the fire,
Restorde the red, and kindled I sweete desire.
And with a bashfull looke beholding him,
Which many months her pleasant foe had bin:
She cast her armes about his drooping necke,
And with her daintie fingers dauid him vp.
And kissing of his palie coloured face,
(Like as the Gods) by touch did loone displace
The sorow, that alterd the poore shepheards I sweete,
When thus she gan her Corulus to greete :
O louely shepheard happie be the holwer,
In which (I know not by what secret power)

Forbonius and Prisceria.

The Gods haue sent thee hether to thy frend,
Alas what grieve should Corulus offend:
Whom fairest Pimph might well a liking lend.
Thy grasing Ewes with udders full of milke,
With fruitfull flæce and wolle as softe as silke,
Take glozy in the fatnesse of this soyle
And praise they? Pastres care and busie toyle:
And now accuse thee of thy dropping mone,
Tis but enough for me to wayle along
For why Corinna onely haplesse is.
Woe Corulus at last reuiude by this,
Can sighing silence now to interrupt
And banish feare which did his hope corrupt.
And thus he said: O Pimph of beauties traine,
The onely cause and easer of my paine:
Tis not the want of any worldly ioy,
Nor fruitlesse breed of Lambes procures my noy,
Ne sigh I thus for any such mishap:
For these vaine goods I lull in fortunes lap.
But other griefes and greater cause of care,
As now Corinna my tormenters are.
Thy beautie Goddess is the onely god,
Thy beautie makes mine eyes to streame a flood,
Thy beautie breakes my wonted pleasant sleepe,
Thy beautie causeth Corulus to weepe:
For other ioyes they now but shadowes be,
No ioye but swete Corinnas loue for me.
Whereon I now beseech thee, by that white
Which stains the lilly, and affects my sight,
By those faire locks whereas the graces rest,
By those swete eyes whereas all pleasures nest:
Doe yelde me loue, or leane me for to die.
Corinna studious for to yeld reply,
With many teares bedewd the shepheards face,
And thus at last she spake: O happie place,

The

The Historie of

The which the Gods appointed for my good.
What blessed Purph within this sacred wood
Hath pleaded poore Corinias lawfull cause?
Or be they dreames that now my fancie drawes?
O Corulus he readly thou sue to me,
For spend the teares for to accepted be,
Since long ere this I would haue bent to bow,
If modest feare could well haue taught me how,
In happie bonds of Himen I am thine:
He plead thou grace to her that dooth incline.
Thus with a kisse she sealed vp the deed:
When as the shepheard glad of happie speed
Embracing her he had desired long,
Can call for grace to her he so did wrong.
Confirmed thus with mutuall glad consent,
They finisht vp the marriage that they ment.
Great was the day, and euery field compeere
Delighted in the pleasure of his deere.
Poore I alone in sad lamenting layes,
Deprived of the pleasure of my dayes,
In carefull tunes in brieft concluding thus:
O happie times and planets gracious.
When in a mirrour beautie did behold
The hidden woes, my muse could wel unfold:
And with a liking looke shape some replie.
But woe is me, since fathers crueltie
In changed foyntes hath altred termes of sute,
And altering place hath made my Goddesse mute.
Who honouring Pan, may hap the person see,
Whom habit strange perswades it should be me.

This delectable Aeglogue finished by the amorous
Forbonius gaue occasions to Prisceria to satisfie
the thoughts that then troubled her fantasie. For con-
founded in her selfe, not knowing what to conclude of
that

that the Shepheard Arualio had reported, yet welnigh perswades that the reporter was he she liked off, with a seemly grace, not minding to incurre the lightest suspicion, turning toward Forbonius, whose hand was on his half-penie, shee sayd thus.

Gentle shepheard, that simp. thou louest shuld alter from womanhood, that considering thy true zeale, & exquisite proportions, would not requite thy loyaltie, with the benefit of her loue. Truly Madame (answering the imagined Arualio, and I thinke my selfe gracious in this, that for her whom I loue I am enioyned this torment, whereupon turning himselfe a side, and drying vp the teares which should bewray his fancie, he was at last known by Prisceria, who altogether amazed at the presence of Forbonius, forgetting welne the infortunacie she was intangled in, cast her armes about his necke, yet colouring with a seemly disdain to shadow her opinion, and blindfold subtill otto, shee sayde thus. Truly shepheard, if I may preuaile with thy mistress, thou shalt not be unrewarded for this turtelle: & Madame (said Forbonius) might I counsell your Ladyship, you should not sorrow for that maye be compassed at your pleasure.

This said, Sotto taking Arualio by the hand, toke his leaue of his young Mistresse thus: My young Ladie, I as studious of your pleasure as maye be haue brought you this young shepheard to laugh at, & if his musick like you, you shall haue euery day at the least a lay or two. And herin shalt thou doe me no small pleasure said Prisceria: & so with a seemly regard shaping a loth departure, & two shepherds resorted to their flocks, Arualio altogether amazed at his mistres beautie, and Sotto very iocund he had fitted his young Ladies fancy so well: wherupon & old shepheard, turning to our solitarie & distressed Arualio, said thus, What makes thee thus solom my youthly compere: cease to greue thy

I.

selfe

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selfe about those thinges that may be compassed, if thou loue, time shal eat out that which Treacle cannot, and thou shalt either be fortunato in possessing hir thou desirest, or in ouerpassing thy passions with good gouernment, leaue loue to those that like her. Arualio not to seeke of curteous humanitie, gaue him this aunswere. **S**otto, it is not the loue that greeneth me, but the meanes to compasse loue: I labour not to attain loue, but to possesse the profits of my long seruice in loue: as for time, it may worke wonders in them that are repulled: but when Cupid is gracious, and occasions be fortunato, thinke you y this is not a bitter sowre? **Y**ea, but answered Sotto, & if it be so Arualio plucke by thy sprights, and doubt thou not, but if thou proue diligent in pleasing my young mistresse, I meane not to be idle, if I may know whom thou likest of. As for that doubt not, said our disguised Forbonius, for since I know by thy onely meanes my loue is to be compassed, I wil not stick in so slight a pleasure to profit, when as by thy meanes I may onely succour my selfe. In such lyke termes passing ouer their werisome walke: At last they betooke themselves each of them to the folding of their sheep, for it was welnie night, and the Sunne was steeped in the Ocean: wherupon Arualio the shepheard, becoming now Forbonius indeede, halted him home vnto his Tenaunts house, making him both priuie of his happie fortune, and concluding with himselfe howe to performe that he wished for, and for that long trauayle requireth some quiet, he betooke himselfe to rest: where recompencing al his nights wakings, with a quiet sleep: At dawne of day he returned in his counterfeit habite vnto the field, and unfolding his flocke, he draue them into those pastures, that wer adioyning to Sottos walk: who no sooner spied Arualio, but saluting him very curtsously, he earnestly intreated him, (setting all excuses apart)

apart) to go to Farnusium, and in the best sort that hee might to solace the vnfortunate Prisceria. Who onely waýting that occasion, commending his flocke to the ouer-sight of the old man, & accompanied with Saracca the daughter of olde Sotto, he was presented to his desired, within the castle, who by the absence of Sotto, finding all occasions to serue her turne, hauing sent sillye Sarraca about some sleeuelesse arrant, she taking the occasion profered, said thus to Forbonius: Blest be that sweete conceipt of thine (O my friend) which to the vnfortunate rigour of my father, hath adapted so conuenient an end. Now maist thou with as great pleasures enioye thy desired, as with deepe perplexities thou hast sorrowed in her absence. Now neither distaunce can seuer vs from imbracing, nor the watchfull eye of my father, intercept thee of thy wish. See heere thy Prisceria, who though the fates worke neuer so contrarie, will liue to Forbonius, and onely loue Forbonius.

This said, with many kisses comforting him which was almost overcome with pleasaunt imaginations, she was returned this aunswere by her most assured fauourer.

O Prisceria, if overpressed with manye suspicious thoughts, if made pertaker of the infernall tortures in Phlegeton, if subiect to the punishment of the Daughters of Danaus, or affixed to the torture that murthereth Titius, I should be confirmed by this onely benefit in opinion, and made constant in all misfortunes, yea, euen to overcome the insupportable trauailes of the sisters, and be enabled with constancie to subdue all torments what so euer, by remembraunce onely of one gracious regard. It is neither thy fathers ranco: sweet Prisceria, nor distance of place, nor any one occasiõ what soeuer, can either sequester me of my hope, nor thee of the possession of thy wished: cast off therefore all doubt

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of after dole, & assure your self, that as this pleasure hath his originall this present instant, so by my meanes ere long it shalbe continu'd for everlasting memory. Passing the time in such like pleasures, and ministering a remedie vnto each others torments, I cannot tell, whether by the iniquitie of destiny, or otherwise: Soldauius learning out Forbonius departure, and suspicious of his forward attempts, at that very instant arrived at Farnesium, when the two amorous couple, little doubting his sodaine approach, were coasted with this sower, in midst of all their sweete, that the enemy of their pleasures euen then entred the Castle, when as it seemed the fates had prescribed them that conueniencie & opportunity to allay their long sorrowing. The bruite of whose aduent brought to the eares of Prisceria, how she was confounded in her self, how dismayd was Forbonius at that instant, how at y very time were they both astonied, when most circumspection should be had: so that scarce they had euen dried vp their teares, when as Soldauius entring the chamber, quicklve discovered the whole counterfaite (for iealous eyes inflamed with rancour pretermitt nothing) whereupon the olde man at first, nothing at all deluded by the straunge habite, spying out their proceedings, laying violent hands on Forbonius caused him forcibly to be conueyed to the strongest tower in the Castle, and turning himselfe to Prisceria, he began thus.

O thou wicked and vngracious mayd, degenerating from the Nobilitie of thy auncestours, and led by vnseemly affections, not directed by the likings of thy tender parents, in what tearmes shuld I accuse thee: or bewray my sorrowes? Woe is me, that am inforced to be an eie witnesse of mine owne sorrow, & to behold y with mine eyes, that I hate in my heart: Is this the reward of breeding children? Is this the benefite that is reapt by issue? Are these the pleasures that befall Parentes?

of Forbonius and Prisceria.

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O Soldanius, happy hadst thou bene, if either Prisceria had bene vnborne, or thou vnmarrried, by the one thou shouldst haue escaped this present miserie, by the other preuented the vntoward sorrow that now confoundeth thee. Is thy loue to be fixed there where I hate? or shouldst thou be amorous of him who is odious to thy Father? O vile wretch borne among the Hircan Tygres, which respecting not thy Fathers felicitie, ouerburthens his olde yeares with vnlooked for calamitie: but if euer iust Gods pittied a lawfull complaint, I doubt not but they that minister iustice to all men, wil weak the iniuries thou hast done to me.

Thus sayd, he sate down altogether confounded with melancholie. When as Prisceria finding occasion to speake for her selfe, began thus.

Who seeketh O father, to preuent the destinies, laboureth in vaine, and who indeauoureth to alter nature, as he striueth against the stream, so must he perish in his owne overweening: the Gods haue concluded our loue, and will you being a creature seeke to infringe it? Alasse my father, why should my pleasure be your discomfort? or that by which I liue, proue that which most you hate? Doe not you herein breake nature? who laie violent hands on your owne flesh, and seeke to alter that by rigor, that was ordained by diuine instinct? O lette your rancor ouerslip (my good father) and ouer humble sute preuailed with an honourable minde, cease to hate him whom I loue: and couple vs both together, whom the Gods hauing ioynd in an assured leaguc of friendship, it cannot be but iniustice to alter their proceedings.

Soldanius not able to digest the furie of his passion, nor willing to weigh of the submissiue request of his daughter, interrupted her thus: And is it not sufficient or thee (vaine wench as thou art) to passe the limites of nature: but to continue thy error too? Thinkest thou to

l. iij.

compasse

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compasse me with teares, who without sighes canstest call to memorie thy escape? no Prisceria, both thou shalt see, and that varlet shall knowe, that my displeasure wil not be finished but wth blood, no; my anger satisfied, till I haue confounded him, who hath discomfited me. Whereupon flinging out of the chamber in a great rage, and fastening both boltes and lockes. he with his frame resorted to the imprisoned poore shepheard, his capitall enimie Forbonius, whom after he had taunted with these vniust tearmes, he proceeded further to this vniust reuenge: Thou cursed and abhominable caitife, is it not sufficient by the iniuries of thy Father Clunamos, to moue my patience, but that thou in person must violate my daughter? Thinkest thou that the Gods detest not these iniuries? when as with wicked attemptes thou bewitchest the daughter, and massacrest the Father? naie nether in iustice will they pretermitt the offence, no; will nature suffer me to beare with thine error: prepare thy selfe therefore to make him recompence with thy blood, whom thou hast troubled with thy attempt.

Forbonius confounded with sorrowe, and amazed at this austere iudgement, yet remembzng the nobilitie that was alwayes accounted in him, answered him thus.

Although enraged rancour hath made thee passe the limits of honour, (O Solduius) yet passe not so farre in thy resolutions, as to staine the dignitie of thy person, with the martyrdome of a guiltlesse Gentleman. If I did hate thy daughter, that lyttle enuye that grewe by my Fathers displeasure, might by reason grow to deepe and rooted mallice, but when I loue Prisceria, why shoulde I bee contempned of Solduius? It should seeme that loue was not accompted lothsome among the gods, when as prescribing a punishment to all escapes, they prescribe an honour to this; chiefly concluding it to be

a vertue: wherevpon thou must conclude, that eyther thou contemnest the decrees of the Gods, or measurest all thinges by thine owne mallice. Thou threatnest me with death (vaine man) and I weigh not the dissolution of my bodie: for this I assure thee, as long as I may liue, I will honour Prisceria, and being dead, my ghost shall persecute thee with reuenge, and prosecute my affections towarde my best beloued. So Prisceria lyue, Forbonius careth not to dye, the onely memorie of whome shall make mee constant in misfortunes, and willing to withstande the brunt of thy crueltie: wherevpon my conclusiō is, that if Soldanius for faithful assurance wil become a friendlye allowder of Forbonius, he which by reason of the mallice of his Father had once cause to hate him, will now honour him, and that strife which separated two so noble families, shal now be finished in our happy marriage: if this like not, proceede as thou pleasest. In granting mee fauour, thou shalt finde honour, in bereauing mee of lyfe, thou shalt finish all my misfortunes.

The discourse of Forbonius thus ended, Soldanius began thus, after y he had somewhat digested his cholar: Although Forbonius the iniuries thou hast offered me, together with former displeasures, be sufficient to continue my resolution, yet weyghing with my selfe that it is vaine to alter that which is prescribed by destinye, wonne by reason which directeth all men, and by the tender loue I beare my Daughter, which shoulde preuaile with a Father: I yelde thee thy loue to inioyne in chaste wedlocke, and wheres thou lookedst I shoulde bee thy tormentour, loe I am now contented to be thy vnlooked for Father. Wherevpon taking Forbonius by the hande, and conueying him to Priscerias chamber, he confirmed the Gentleman in his former purpose, and his daughter of his assured fauour, vsing

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using these kind of tearmes to discover his intention :
My daughter, that father that even now baineously mis-
liketh of thy lover, now gloryeth in thy liking, & he which
whilome hated Forbonius, now boughsafeth him his son
in lawe : whereupon comfort your selues with mutu-
all solace, & to morrow we will do the Citie to finish by
ceremonies. The two lovers compassed with incredi-
ble pleasures, & not able to suppress the affections that
possessed the, but by breaking out into speech : they both
humbled theselues to aged Solduvius, returning him by
mouth of Forbonius these thanks. O noble gentleman,
it may not be expressed by tongue, what I imagine in
heart, who by your meanes, of the most vnfortunatest
man that liueth, am become the only happie man of the
world: notwithstanding this in lew of all fauour I wil
returne you, that both by that meanes all priuate quar-
rells shall cease betweene our two families, and you re-
gistred in our Aegyptian Records, for the onely peace-
maker of Memphis. In these sweete speeches ouer pas-
sing the daie & night, the next morrow the whole traine
polted to Memphis, whereas by the high Priest of the
Sun they were solemnly espoused, and after many sor-
rowes were recompensed with nuptiall pleasure. Now
Ladies and Gentlewomen, I must leaue this to your
consideration, whether the lovers for their constancie
are moze to be commended, or the olde man for his pati-
ence moze to be wondered at: I leaue you to fit that con-
clusion, till you haue read what is written, promising
you that if my rude discourse haue wrought you anye
pleasure, I will both laboꝝ hereafter to serue all occasi-
ons, and so fire my studies as they shall not farre differ
from your fantasies : and thus craving you to winke at
an errour, and commend as the cause requireth, I take
my leaue : willing to be made priue if I haue anye
wayes trauayled to your contentment.

FINIS.

TRVTHS COM-

plaint ouer England.

M^y mournfull Muse Melpomene praye me
 Thou saddest Ladie of the sisters three,
 And let her plaints in paper now appeere:
 Whose teares lyke Ocean billowes seeme to bee:
 And should I note the plaintiffes name to thee:
 Men call her Truth, once had in great request,
 But banisht now of late for crafts behest.

Amidst the rest that set their pen to booke,
 She pickt me out to tell this wofull tale,
 A simple Poet, on whose workes to looke,
 The finest heads would thinke it verie stale:
 Yet though unworthie, to my friends auails
 I take the toile, and praie my Muses aide:
 To blazon out the tale of Truth dismaide.

Such time as Phoebus from the couloured skie,
 Did headlong driue his horses t'ord the West,
 To suffer horned Luna for to pye,
 Amidst the duskie darke, new raisde from rest,
 As I in fragrant fields with woes oppress:
 Can walke to driue out melancholy grieffe,
 Which in my heart at that time had the cheefe.

It was my hap fast by a riders side,
 To heare a rufull voice lamenting thus,
 Thou rattling Creantes, euen as your waues diuide:
 So breakes my heart with passions perillous,
 Which faine I would vnto the world discusse,
 Were anie heere for to recount my moane,
 Whose wofull heart for inward grieffe doth grone.

L.

Which

Truths complaint

Which sayd, she cast her bewed eyes at kance,
And spying me, gan rowse her heauie head,
And praide me pen her sad and heauie chance,
And she recounted it that present sted,
I did agree, and graunting Truth me sed:
With these repoztes which I set downe in bearse,
Which greues my Muse for sorowes to rehearse.

Whilome (deere friend) it was my chaunce to dwell,
Within an Iland compass with the waue,
A safe defence a forren foe to quell.
Once Albion cald, next Britaine Brutus gaue,
Now England hight, a plot of beautie braue,
Which onely soyle, should seme the seate bee,
Of Paradise, if it from sinne were free.

Within this place, within this sacred plot,
I first did frame, my first contented bower,
There found I peace and plentie for to float,
There iustice rulse, and shinde in euerie stowre,
There was I loude and sought to euerie howre,
Their Prince content with plainnesse loued Trutli,
And pride by abstinence was kept from youth.

Then flew not fashions euerie daie from Fraunce,
Then sought not Nobles nouells from a farre,
Then land was kept, not hazarded by chaunce,
Then quiet minde preserud the soile from iarre,
Cloth kept out colde, the poore releued werre.
This was the state, this was the luckie stowre,
While Truth in England kept her stately bowre.

Justice did neuer looke with partiall eyes,
Demolthenes was neuer dum for golde,

The

The Princes eares were ope to pefants cries,
And false suspect was charely kept in holde,
Religion flourish, linings were not solde
For lucre then, but giuen by defart,
And each receiud, & preacht with zealous hart.

Then learning was the Loadstone of the land,
Then hus bandman was free from shiftes of lawe,
Then faithfull promise stode in sted of band,
The Drones from busie Bee no Mel could dralwe,
Then loue, not feare, did keepe the state in awe:
Then, then, did flourish that renowned time,
When earth and ashes thrust not to cline.

For as the horse well mand abides the bit,
And leernes his stop by raine in riders hand,
Where mountain colt that was not saddled yet,
Runnes headlong on amidst the fallowed land,
Whole fierce resist scarce bends with anie band;
So men reclaimde by vertue, tread aright,
Where led by follies mischiefes on their light.

Use masters all, vse nurtereth moystall wayes,
Use, vse of good, continues happie state,
Use, vse of mee, made England then haue praise,
But since abuse hath banisht me of late.
Alasse the while, there runnes another rate,
Which while by sad insight I looke into,
I see the want of those that haue to doe.

And yet I see not Sodome: some are good,
Whose inward bowels dayly melt in mone,
To see how Britane now is raging wood,
Hard hearted, stintie minded, all in one,
Went to abuse, and leauing me alone.

L. y.

Alone

Truths complains

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To see how Britane now is raging wood,
Hard hearted, flintie minded, all in one,
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L. y.

Alone

Truths complaint

Alonely lead with carelesse shew of peace,
Whereas secure regard doth sinne increase.

Some, some there be whom zeale hath swallowed vp,
First, blessed Prince, of whom I finde releefe,
Some noble peeres that tast errors cup,
Some godly Prelates in the Church are cheefe,
Some Lawiers lead by zeale, lament my greefe.
Some Merchants follow God, not swallow golde,
Some countrie Swains loue truth you may be bolde.

Yet as great store of Darnell marres the seed,
Which else would spring within a fertile field:
And as the fruitfull bud is choakt by weede:
Which otherwise a gladsome grape would yeeld,
So sometimes wicked men doe ouerweeld,
And keepe in couert those who would direct,
The common state, which erroꝝ doth infect.

Yet Truth must neuer alter from his name,
Good Prince sayd I, ye good: what of her selfe?
And that is good, foꝝ Princes that doe frame
Themselues to priuate good, do subiects good,
Yet that's not that same goodnesse I would name:
Good Prince, good people, that's the good I craue,
Of Princes goods, that goodnesse would I haue.

Foꝝ as the great commaunder of the tides,
God Neptune can allay the swelling seas,
And make the billowes mount on either sides:
When wandering keeles his cholar would displease:
So Princes may stirre vp and some appease,
The commons heart to doe: and to destroy
That which is good, & this which threatens annoy.

For

For common state can neuer I way amisse
 When Princes liues do leuell all a right,
 Be it for Prince that England happie is,
 Yet haplesse England if the fortune light:
 That with the Prince, the subiects seeke not right,
 Unhappie state, vnluckie times they bee,
 When Princes liues and subiects disagree.

I know not I whence come these wayward woes,
 Whose sodaine shoues portend this sodain change,
 Yet dooth mis doubt such sodaine feares disclose,
 As Truth this present doubts the sequell strange:
 When stable head, lets staillesse members range,
 I feare me: as the buildings trust to sand,
 So euery blast will stroy with turne of hand,

When as in Court by proud contempt I see,
 A fashion feedes the fancies now a dayes,
 When as in Court promotions passed be
 By selfe opinion: oft the wise man sayes,
 The turnes are strange, and fauour soone decayes:
 And those whom fortune winneth now a floate,
 By change of fauour, soone may change their coate.

When as election dooth but passe by sence,
 Then must I deeme the world is fed by shoues:
 When garish beautie causeth vaine expence,
 It seemes the man should see, but little knowes,
 Repentaunce is the fruite by louing growes:
 So when in Court nought but such pleasures be,
 Repentaunce must ensue we well may see.

But leauing Court, where though the bramble groes,
 Yet zealous care there lets her selfe I see,

Truths complaint

I doe in Court but now complaine of those,
Who practise that that sits not their degree:
Whose vaines by powre full oft corrected be:
But now such colours cloake each bad pretence,
That shewes doe hold the wise in some suspence.

But I poore I though grieved at courtlike escapes,
Lamenting there the lawish vaine expence,
Have farther cause abroad to note escapes,
Where craft doth keepe true meaning in suspence:
And wily worldlings couer their pretence:
With holy shapen, and in a holy coate,
Doth flattery praise those men that swim a floate:

In Nobles traines, who sees not strange mis déemes,
Where each doth gape and catch at priuate gaine,
And fleece the Lord, who though he blindfold seems,
By oft attempts doth barre them of their vaines,
The painfull wretch who toiles with often paines,
He hath faire words, when flatterie sucks the sweete.
Thus shewes take place, and Troth's trod vnder fete.

In England giftes can compasse each reproofe,
The bad for gold may sone be counted good,
The wicked gainer for the states behoufe,
The blindest buzzard to giue heauenly food,
The faintest heart in warlikst place hath stood:
And who giues most, hath now most store of farmes,
Rackt rents, the Lord with golden fuel warmes.

And Justice so I feare by power is led,
The poore may crie, and gladly creepe to crosse,
The rich with wealth, the wealthie now are fed,
The simple man now onely beares the losse,
The Lawier he the golden crownes doth posse,
And

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ouer England.

And now hath fées at will with cap and knée,
And each man cries, good sir come plead for me.

O I wæte the time, when neither folly might
Mislead your hopes, no: alter olde decrees.
O happie Truth when as with swæte delight,
She laboured still for conscience not for fées.
O blessed time, when zeale with bended knées,
Can blesse the heauens, that bent their powres diuine,
The English hearts to wisdom to encline.

But now refus'd, disdained, and set at naught,
Inso:st to seeke for rest in place unknowne,
I wayle poore wretch, that no redresse is sought:
But well I wot, my græfes are not mine owne,
Some beare a part and helpe to waite my mone,
But all in vaine: such colours now are made,
That those would mend the misse, doe daunce in shade.

This said, bewetting all the place with teares,
And from her eyes expelling fouds of mone,
Her louely lockes bespred about her eares,
She waude her wings as willing to be gone:
And after pause, she soard away anone,
And thus she said: Pou Islanders adieu,
Pou banisht me, before I fled from you.
Lenuoy. Belæue me, Countrymen this thing is true.

FINIS.

